

Hammersmith CHRONICLE

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LONDON SAYS: IT'S ALL YOURS, SADIQ

■ IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Stars of the stage celebrated the first anniversary of the Lyric Hammersmith's ambitious redevelopment project by raising a glass to a record-breaking year.

The theatre's box office has been bursting with bookings in the last 12 months, as more than 150,000 people took their seats for one of the 639 performances staged since the revamp. Alongside a new and improved main theatre, the brand new Reuben Foundation Wing was opened a year ago as bosses completed a major makeover at the Lyric Square venue.

Hit show *Bugsy Malone* (pictured) returns to the stage for a fresh run of performances starting on June 11.



Prison attack

PRISON officers were left 'seriously injured' after being attacked by an inmate at Wormwood Scrubs – two days after a staff walkout over safety fears. The two officers were attacked during a shift on Sunday morning and were taken to hospital.

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Survivor's tale

HOLOCAUST survivor Ruth Barnett, who fled to England as a child to escape Nazi persecution, gave an illuminating talk to guests at the Cardinal Hume Centre in west London.

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Ideas, please

ARTISTS, architects and designers are being urged to offer their ideas for improving Hammersmith's town centre. A new competition has been launched as part of the London Festival of Architecture, offering cash prizes for creative suggestions.

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My inspiration

A TEACHER who raised thousands of pounds for charity after running the London Marathon says her students inspired her to reach the finish line.

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Cottage cafe

BELINDA Donovan, author of the *Hammersmith and Fulham Cook Book*, visits the Craven Cottage Cafe and enjoys the homemade cakes and biscuits

WINE & DINE, PAGE 16

Mayor to halt rise of the 'super basements'

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SADIQ Khan has promised to crack down on unpopular 'super basement' developments in Hammersmith and Fulham, after new figures revealed the number of planning applications has more than doubled in the last five years.

Statistics suggest the borough is becoming

one of London's new hotspots for underground property renovations, with more than 800 applications submitted to council planners in 2015.

The figure has rocketed by almost 120 per cent since 2010 when there were only 378 requests for planning permission.

Mr Khan, who is beginning his first full week at the helm of City Hall after being elected the

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Still time to pitch for green funds

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

NEWSPAPERS in the *London Weekly News* series are calling on schools, charities and community groups to throw their hats into the ring for the chance to receive a share of a £90,000 cash pot.

We have teamed up with Tesco to give the money raised from the supermarket's 5p bag charges back to local people by funding innovative environmental projects.

There has already been great interest in our *Bags of Help* campaign, which was launched in last week's *London Weekly News* titles, and nominations have been flooding in – but there is still time to enter.

Applications will close on Friday, June 3 and once all the bids are in and have been shortlisted to a final three, Tesco customers and *London Weekly News* readers will have the chance to vote for which of the three finalists they would like to see win the prize money.

The finalists across our three boroughs – Hammersmith and Fulham,



■ GREEN IDEAS: Graciela Carmona has been helping out with a community gardening project at William Banfield House in Fulham. Schemes like this one might like to be considered for funding in our *Bags of Help* initiative, being rolled out with the support of Tesco



Kensington and Chelsea, and the City of Westminster – will each receive grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000, and voting will open in early October.

Millie Johnston, Tesco's London Communications Manager, said: "The interest from customers and readers has been great and I would encourage anyone interested to get their application in. It is going to be a very hard decision to whittle down these projects to a shortlist of three but the main thing is that we are going to make a real difference to some local groups."

Philip Evans, *London Weekly News* editor, said: "This is a golden opportunity for people power to have a say in how the money raised from the bag charge is handed out.

"*London Weekly News* is always keen to support local good causes, so we are very pleased to be part of the process that will see three of these projects receive a big cash bonus. Cleaning up the environment is the number one challenge facing our city today. It may be a global problem but we know our readers can lead the way by making a big difference in their communities. We are extremely proud to be teaming up with Tesco to launch *Bags of Help* – and I have every confidence that our fantastic local schools, charities and community groups will show the rest of London how we can make our city cleaner and greener."

To nominate a project for our *Bags of Help* campaign, visit www.groundwork.org.uk/tescocommunicationscheme or call 0121 237 5780.

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NEWS FROM HAMMERSMITH

Basements crackdown

FROM PAGE 1

new Mayor of London, said digging down could be "damaging for communities".

He said he would get tough on developers by limiting the size of extensions.

"The growth of super basements has been really damaging for communities in Hammersmith and Fulham, and across London," he said. "They cause disruption, noise and annoyance for thousands of Londoners, blighting neighbourhoods for months on end."

"People have also expressed real concerns about the impact of mega basements on the foundations of surrounding buildings."

Underground extensions are becoming more and more popular although some London councils – including neighbouring Kensington and Chelsea – are seeking to crack down on the so-called "iceberg" properties by introducing tougher regulations.

In west London, Hammersmith and Fulham is becoming an increasingly popular destination for basement projects.

Of the 12 inner London boroughs, only Wandsworth council received a higher number of applications – 837 – in 2015. There were only 188 applications in Kensington and Chelsea, and just 117 in the City of Westminster – less than a quarter of the number in Hammersmith and Fulham last year.

Mr Khan, who swept into City Hall on the back of the biggest ever mandate for a London mayor after an emphatic victory over Conservative rival Zac Goldsmith, said he would take action to give "greater protection to local residents".

He added: "I will amend the London Plan to limit the size of so-called mega basement extensions and give neighbours greater protection from the noise, dust and disruption major works on this scale can cause to households and communities.

Safety inspectors swooped on several iceberg homes in Hammersmith and Fulham last year after the Government's regulator warned that construction workers were being put at risk by poor building practices.

The Health and Safety Executive said standards often slipped where work was being carried on unsuitable properties because residents could not afford to move house.

Planning permission is needed to extend a basement in a flat or maisonette but permitted development rights allow for owners of single houses to dig down without prior approval, subject to conditions.

Flood projects

A SERIES of innovative environmental projects designed to reduce the risk of flooding in Hammersmith have been demonstrated to industry leaders.

The 'Green Sky Thinking' event, organised by Hammersmith and Fulham council, highlighted the success of sustainable drainage systems on the Queen Caroline estate.

The scheme have been set up to reduce surface flooding and improve water quality.



■ SAFETY CONCERN: Prison officers were injured after an attack by an inmate at Wormwood Scrubs

Inmate attacks officers days after 'strike' over safety fears

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PRISON officers were left "seriously injured" after being attacked by an inmate at Wormwood Scrubs – two days after a staff walkout over safety fears.

The two officers were attacked during a shift on Sunday morning (May 8) and were taken to hospital.

A spokesman for HM Prison Service said the inmate had been placed in a segregated cell following the incident.

It comes less than 48 hours after the Prison Officers Association urged bosses to engage with the union over concerns about "violent attacks".

Some members of staff refused to work on Friday following a series of assaults by inmates at the prison.

The attack comes in the wake of a damning report by the prisons watchdog, which laid bare the shocking extent of the problems at Wormwood Scrubs.

Last month an investigation by HM Inspectorate of Prisons revealed that drug smuggling and violence was rife, with inmates crammed into dirty and over-crowded cells for up to 22 hours a day.

Half of prisoners said they felt unsafe and some were too frightened even to leave their cells, according to the report.

Ministers came under fire over the "scandal" at Wormwood Scrubs last week as local MP Andy Slaughter called for action to keep staff and inmates safe.

"The real scandal here is of a violent, dangerous and hostile environment, and a lack of work, education or rehabilitation [for prisoners]," said Mr Slaughter.

He said members of the public, as well as prisoners themselves, were being put at risk by poor management.

"Inadequate staffing, drugs freely available and little planning for release puts not just prisoners and officers at risk, but all of us," he added. "It is no surprise the UK has one of the worst re-offending rates in Europe."

Inspectors concluded that "not nearly enough progress" had been made to improve standards at the prison, after serious concerns were raised 18 months ago.

Their report stated that rats were spotted running around the prison "every day and night", while one prisoner on suicide watch was found in a cell that had jagged glass left in broken windows.

The Inspectorate's report was pounced on by campaign groups, who rallied to criticise the "Dickensian" squalor uncovered at the prison.

Juliet Lyon, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said the report was "shattering" and that conditions at Wormwood Scrubs "ought to have been consigned to the history books".

A spokesman for HM Prison Service said: "We do not tolerate violence against our hardworking officers."

"The perpetrator has been placed in segregation and will face a police investigation, which could lead to criminal charges."



■ ACTION CALL:
MP Andy
Slaughter



Help improve centre of town

ARTISTS, architects and designers are being urged to offer their ideas for improving Hammersmith's town centre.

A new competition has been launched as part of the London Festival of Architecture, offering cash prizes for creative suggestions.

The best ideas will be put before councillors and could be included in the town centre's improvement strategy.

The competition – Imagine Hammersmith – has been set up by the Hammersmith Business Improvement District and West London Link, the group behind the 'flyunder' scheme.

A spokesman for the BID said: "If you have an idea, now is the chance to air it in public. It could be anything – a public space, a building, new infrastructure, an event or a monument, whatever you can imagine to help the area."

A prize of £1,000 will be awarded to the best suggestion, with a £500 cash award for the best junior entry.

The competition runs until Saturday July 18. For more information, visit the website www.westlondonlink.com or you can email this address: competition@westlondonlink.com

Pupils inspire me – teacher

A TEACHER who raised thousands of pounds for charity after running the London Marathon says her students inspired her to reach the finish line.

Amelia Pemberton, who collected £7,500 for the Outward Bound Trust, said it was the memory of her students at Hammersmith Academy who had benefited from the charity's outdoor activity programmes that kept her going.

The school works closely with the trust to provide inner-city students with opportunities to experience the natural world.

Ms Pemberton, a science teacher at the school, said: "This was my first and probably my last marathon. Having said that, it was worth every metre of pain knowing I was raising money for such an amazing cause."

"Knowing students from Hammersmith Academy have benefited so greatly from the Outward Bound Trust was a huge motivator in getting me round those last few miles."

Choose best place for lunch

RESTAURANTS, bars and cafes will compete for the crown of Hammersmith's best lunchtime eatery.

Diners are being encouraged to vote for their favourite outlets in the annual I Love Lunch competition.

Each winner will be presented with a trophy and certificate from the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, and will be automatically entered into the West London Business Awards.

For more information and to vote, visit the website www.hammersmithlondon.co.uk

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

Splash the cash for Boris water cannon

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FOR sale: three water cannon. German-made. Never used. Paid £218,000, will take less.

New Mayor Sadiq Khan is looking for a buyer for the riot-busting water cannon that Boris Johnson bought but was never allowed to use.

The controversial cannon, whose operation was blocked by Home Secretary Theresa May in case they put somebody's eye

out, were bought two years ago by Mr Johnson for the Met.

"After the riots of 2011, the Commissioner made it clear that water cannon is a tactic he would want at his disposal in the event of a future emergency," said a spokesman for Mayor Johnson at the time.

The spokesman claimed that the purchase of the German-made super-squirters was supported by the Prime Minister "and 68 per cent of Londoners in independent polling".



■ PAY TO SPRAY: The new Mayor of London has three water cannon vehicles to dispose of

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But despite the claim of public demand for the cannon, the Home Secretary refused to give the police permission for their use on the streets of London, on the grounds of medical risk. Her decision followed an incident in Stuttgart in which a German pensioner was left blind after being struck in the face by jets from a water cannon.

Although the Home Secretary said that "in the event of future disorder" the police could reapply for a licence to use water cannons, in one of his first moves as the new boss of London, Mayor Khan is to sell them off.

Mr Khan has pledged to make the sale to "spend the money on youth projects aimed at decreasing gang crime".

It is not clear how Mr Khan intends to set about selling the riot vehicles, which have been garaged for two years at a police depot in Gravesend, but a used-car ad for the cannon may be seen as bargain for buyers as brand-new cannon currently for sale from ISBI Armoring are priced as at least £286,000 each. Potential buyers include the military and police in Turkey, Columbia, South Korea, Armenia and various African states. Although the depreciation rates on second-hand water cannon are not in the public domain, it is estimated that Mayor Khan may not get more than £150,000 for the three vehicles.

ELECTION: PAGES 8&9

Way to safer relationships

A NEW campaign developed by young people with the backing of Westminster City Council aims to raise awareness among young men and women on the different ways a relationship can be unhealthy, and what to say or do if a friend talks to them about issues that could indicate abusive behaviour.

Relationship abuse is most common among people aged 16 to 24, with young women most at risk. As most young people would only ever tell a friend about any relationship issues, making sure that they know how to respond to possible signs of abuse is essential to help prevent it, says the council.

The project, called #SpeakSense, counts on the support of relationship blogger and YouTube sensation Hannah Witton, who is featured in the #SpeakSense film. Inspired by the findings of extensive youth consultations on relationships, the film shows young actors interpreting common reactions to real life abuse scenarios.

Hannah said: "We all talk to our friends about our intimate relationships in one way or another, so it is really important to be able to recognise abuse and speaking sense when we see someone caught up in it."

"Providing the right support at the right time can make a huge difference, and ultimately save lives. I am excited and proud to be a part of the #SpeakSense campaign, as better knowledge of abuse is needed to enable more young people to have the happy and healthy relationships they deserve."

Alongside the film, additional information and listings of local and national support services for young victims and perpetrators of abuse have been made available at speaksense.org.

Councillor Rachael Robathan, cabinet member for adults and public health at Westminster City Council, said: "Domestic abuse, including unhealthy relationships, are common issues with serious consequences for health and wellbeing. We are deeply committed to finding more ways of preventing this unacceptable crime."

"The fact that young people are more at risk of abuse is alarming and requires immediate attention. With #SpeakSense, we want to engage young men and women in spreading the message that everyone can help prevent abuse, even if they are not directly affected themselves."

Nourhan Meddah, member of the Westminster Youth Council, said: "Lots of people might not recognise things such as your boyfriend telling you not to wear a particular top, or wanting to check your messages, as a sign of an unhealthy relationship."

"I hope that our campaign will empower more young people to speak sense and take a stand against abuse, regardless if that means supporting a victim or challenging a perpetrator."

Writing for you every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!



ENTREPRENEURS should draw inspiration from all walks of life to improve their business ambitions, and that includes the football pitches of the Premier League.

The current football season has been one of the most unpredictable on record. Leicester City have been crowned champions for the first time in their history, as the big boys trail in their wake.

Pop into the Pimlico Plumbers canteen on a Monday morning during the last few months and one of the most common debates over the bacon sarnies has been how Leicester have gone from relegation certainties to Premier League champions.

They chew over results and tactics like Sky Sports' pundits, but I think there are also some lessons from Leicester's exploits that apply to the world of business as much as they do in the beautiful game.

I'm not a big football fan, to be honest, and I wouldn't recognise most of the Leicester team if they called me up to fix their plumbing, but perhaps that's part of their success. They caught the opposition by surprise with a plan of action that has delivered results. And, like the best businesses, they haven't reinvented the wheel, they've just done things differently than others in their marketplace and caught the establishment by surprise.

Comparing football clubs with businesses would usually put the manager or coach in the role of entrepreneur. But, in the case of Leicester's boss, Claudio Ranieri, I would instead suggest he is more like a business mentor than a business owner. He's been around the block, managed 15 clubs across Italy, England, Spain and France and coached the Greek national team.

His experience and knowledge has allowed him to look at the market, in his case the Premier League, and come up with the best strategy that he has shared with his club to carve a strong position in a very competitive field where some have infinitely more resources than his club.

Mentorship is key to achieving business success. In football as in business, bravado and sheer determination will only get you so far. Yes, you need talent, but you

need that little something extra that only those who have trod a similar path before can help you with.

A similar theme is shared with how they've assembled the lads on the pitch. They have matched those with experience of playing at the top level, albeit with little previous success, with some real gems, most notably Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez, who they didn't have to break the bank to bring in. This has created a cocktail of skill, determination and results that has other clubs looking on in envy.

Small business can do the same when recruiting. Adding to a nucleus of experience with young and hungry apprentices and, as we have also done at Pimlico Plumbers, looking beyond our standard geographic boundaries to bring in skilled engineers, who are helping to take our business forward, delivers the desired combination.

Most of all, bringing this all together, has enabled Leicester to have belief. Belief in their colleagues and belief in how they do things. It's allowed them to become the equivalent of a start-up firm with a killer idea and disrupt a market that has been dominated for years by the same big players.

Of course, good results breed confidence, but it's nurturing that team spirit to keep it as a constant through the season or, in business terms, 52 weeks a year. Ranieri is credited with building belief and spirit by using the personal touch, most notably by treating his players to pizzas at a local restaurant as a reward for not conceding a goal for the first time in the season.

It's this type of thing that tightens bonds between colleagues and helps them work towards their shared aims. It's why we have our aforementioned canteen with its wide range of meal choices at Pimlico Plumbers along with our on-site gym, access to a personal trainer and regular massage-at-work sessions.

Leicester City's achievement this season in winning the league is truly outstanding and should inspire entrepreneurs. Don't accept the status quo, do things differently and better and the big boys of your business world will soon be looking over their shoulders.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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LONDON WIDE

Room for the vroom at motor show

PETROL-HEADS, automotive enthusiasts and industry experts gathered in Battersea Park when the London Motor Show officially opened on Friday.

Their treat? Hundreds of state-of-the-art models, gleaming under the lights and boasting the latest technology.

The UK has been without its own dedicated automotive showcase since 2008, but organisers of the revamped event secured backing from 35 different car brands, including Aston Martin, Rolls-Royce, Ford, Nissan, Jaguar, Land Rover and BMW.

Over three days at Battersea Evolution Centre, 130 models were displayed, from super-minis to supercars. There were several UK debuts headlined by MG's first SUV – the GS – and the £154,000 McLaren 570GT.

The Infiniti Q60 was also on display in Britain for the first time alongside a limited-edition one-off Land Rover Defender designed by Khan.

Away from the cars, there was a lecture theatre with daily talks from high-profile speakers, such as Sir Stirling Moss, Tiff Needell and Nigel Mansell. There were book signings, too, plus the chance to sit alongside these motorsport heroes on test drives.

A live demo of autonomous emergency braking was another of the events taking place at the London Motor Show.



ALL THE ROAD RAGE: Among the headline grabbers at last week's London Motor Show were the Infiniti Q60, top, and the £154,000 McLaren 570GT. Inset bottom: motor racing legend Sir Stirling Moss was a huge hit with motorsport fans as he shared his insights on motoring, great cars and great sporting moments on the track

Bank of Terror phone scam may have helped to finance terrorists

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MILLIONS of pounds could be in the hands of terrorists because money defrauded from potentially thousands of victims has never been recovered.

Eleven London men were part of the "bank of terror" fraud in which conmen phoned elderly victims and tricked them into handing over their life savings by pretending to be police officers.

Nine men were jailed for their part in the conspiracy and two of the gang have already been sent to prison.

Mohammed Youssfi, 38, of West Brompton, was given 20 months in prison for money laundering and fraud after he pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing.

Mohammed Abokar, 28, of Islington, was sentenced to 18 months for money laundering.

The gang, who were convicted of either conspiracy to commit fraud or money laundering offences, included Southbank University engineer-

ing student Sakaria Aden, 22, Westminster University student Makhzumi Abukar, 24, London Metropolitan University student Mohamed Dahir, 23, and Brick Lane curry house worker Fahim Islam, 21. Others were Ahmed Ahmed, 23, of Holloway, Anrul Islam, 24, of Dagenham, Yasser Abukar, 24, of Holloway, and Warsame Sheik, 30, of White City.

The investigation by officers from the National Terrorism Financial Investigation Unit uncovered 16 phone lines used to make 6,000 calls to around 4,000 different phone numbers.

One victim, a 94-year-old man from north west London, lost £130,000, while another victim lost £135,000.

Detectives found evidence of thousands of frauds totalling more than £1million but the full extent could be much more, with thousands more victims targeted who were too scared to come forward. The total amount scammed could run into the millions.

Commander Dean Haydon of the Met Police's Counter

Terrorism Command, which carried out the investigation, said: "We initially tracked irregular payments in the UK that were being used to facilitate an individual's travel to Syria, then we traced those transactions and uncovered the wider fraud.

"This group worked as an organised criminal gang on an industrial scale, targeting the elderly and vulnerable, purporting to be police officers to get them to transfer money to their accounts. In some cases they would send a courier to their victim's home address to pick up the cash, in other instances they would take them to the cash machine or bank to withdraw money."

"They used 16 different telephone lines to gain the trust of the victims, who were mainly across the south east of England. If the victim did not believe they were police officers they would get them to call the number on the back of their credit card, but would leave the phone line open so that when the victim dialled the number they were still talking to a

fraudster and not the bank."

Officers identified at least 140 other victims hit by the scam, but say there could be thousands more.

Commander Haydon added: "We identified hundreds of victims. However, we think there could be more. There could be thousands of people that have been targeted, but they have not come forward because they are embarrassed or feel guilty."

"The oldest victim is 94 and had £130,000 taken, that's their whole life savings, so this crime has had a devastating effect on the victims and their families."

"The vast majority of that money is unaccounted for, we were unable to recover it. Some of it was spent here in the UK but the rest we don't know, it could have gone overseas."

"We're working with the banking industry to get some compensation for the victims, but ultimately that is a decision for the banks."

Detectives investigating terrorist activity believe these kind of scams are part of a network in which criminals siphon cash

to fund terrorism and travel to Syria to fight with ISIS.

Commander Haydon said: "Without a doubt courier fraud is being used to fund terrorism."

"Groups not just in the UK but overseas are using courier fraud, robbery, credit card fraud, drug dealing, oil, business fraud, bank of trust – it all contributes to the funding of terrorism, it's all part of it."

"But we can't be sure that in this case it has been used for terrorist activities, we couldn't prove that link. If we could then the charges would be the more serious charges of terrorism, rather than fraud. Undoubtedly we will unearth similar frauds in the future, it's a crime that's not going to go away."

Since this case was uncovered authorities have closed the loophole that allowed criminals to exploit the phone system.

Commander Haydon said: "As a result of the case OFCOM have changed the way the phone system works so it is much harder for the phone system to be exploited in this way."

Final salute to big race hero

HUNDREDS of mourners gathered on Thursday for the funeral of a war veteran who died while running the London Marathon.

Captain David Seath, 31, was a fire support team commander in 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery who had served in Afghanistan. The kind-hearted soldier was running in support of army veteran charity Help For Heroes when he suffered a suspected cardiac arrest with three miles of the course remaining. He died later in hospital on April 24.

Captain Seath was laid to rest yesterday following a touching service at St Margaret's Roman Catholic Church in Dunfermline, Fife, near his native Cowdenbeath.

The popularity of the devoted soldier was clear for all to see as the mourners attending the service easily exceeded the 350 capacity, with many forced to stand for the duration of the ceremony.

His coffin was draped in the flag of the country he fought for in Afghanistan.

Capt James Walker-McClimens of the 7th Parachute Royal Horse Artillery read out a heart-warming tribute written by Captain Seath's brother Gary.

He said: "There are no words to express how devastated I am that this story has so tragically ended with so many chapters left unwritten."

"I take great strength in the memories of him and the pride he had being an officer at 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery. He was dedicated to his men and supported those who could no fight for themselves against the tyranny of the modern world."

Police airport drink warning

LONDONERS heading off on holiday are being warned to know their limits as they could be sent on a two-year holiday if they get too drunk at an airport – to prison.

Police have launched a crackdown at Gatwick Airport to reduce the number of people boarding flights drunk in the summer.

Anyone convicted of being drunk on board a plane faces up to two years in prison.

And since March last year, the limits on the fines that could be imposed were removed, meaning troublemakers could face hefty costs. Drunks may also have to pay the costs racked up by a delayed or cancelled flight.

Sergeant Darren Taylor, of the Gatwick Airport Policing Team, said: "We deal with disruptive passengers all year round, but we recognise the problem tends to peak in the summer months – often when there are a lot of stag and hen parties – and that's why we run a specific operation at this time of year."

"Working with the airlines, we're able to target a number of long and short-haul routes where we feel there may be issues. We'll also be increasing patrols around the airside and around licensed premises to ensure people are aware of the rules and their responsibilities."

"The whole concept is to prevent disorder from occurring and to allow the majority of well-behaved passengers to enjoy their flight."

LONDON WIDE

Cycling still good for you even in our polluted air

BY TAYLOR GEALL

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HALF an hour's cycling a day – even in London's dirty air – still provides health benefits, according to a new study.

The new evidence strengthens the case for cycling in polluted cities, which in turn could help reduce vehicle emissions.

One way for people to increase their levels of physical activity is through 'active travel' – including cycling and walking – which then helps reduce the risk of diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and several cancers.

A collaborative study from the Centre for Diet and Activity Research and the Medical Research Council Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge concludes that cycling for half an hour a day still provides a benefit in 99 per cent of the world's cities.



Britain's air pollution contributes to the early deaths of around 40,000 people annually – in London more than 9,000 die from conditions connected to dirty air every year – and a recent report suggested that one way to reduce the number of cars on the road would be to encourage active travel.

But fears have been raised that people who travel in such environments would inhale more pollution, particularly from diesel engines.

Previous studies had concluded that the health benefits of active travel outweighed the risks, but those studies were carried out in areas of relatively low pollution.

The new study, published in the journal *Preventive Medicine*, used computer simulations to test the risks and benefits of active travel in areas of higher pollution, as well as measuring differences in the intensity of active travel.

Researchers calculated that air pollution risks will not negate the health benefits of active travel in the vast majority of urban areas worldwide.

Only one per cent of cities in the World Health Organisation's Ambient Air Pollution Database had pollution levels high enough that the risks of air pollution could start to overcome the benefits of physical activity after half an hour of cycling every day.

Dr Marko Tainio from the Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge, who led the study, said: "Our model indicates that in London, health benefits of active travel always outweigh the risk from pollution."

"Even in Delhi, one of the most polluted cities in the world – with pollution levels ten times those in London – people would need to cycle over five hours per week before the pollution risks outweigh the health benefits."

"We should remember, though, that a small minority of workers in the most polluted cities, such as bike messengers,

may be exposed to levels of air pollution high enough to cancel out the health benefits of physical activity."

Senior author Dr James Woodcock, also from CEDAR, said: "Whilst this research demonstrates the benefits of physical activity in spite of air quality, it is not an argument for inaction in combating pollution."

"It provides further support for investment in infrastructure to get people out of their cars and onto their feet or their bikes – which can itself reduce pollution levels at the same time as supporting physical activity."

The organisation London Air, run by King's College London, monitors the capital's air pollution and offers live updates on the air quality using a 1-10 scale.

People are advised to "consider reducing activity, particularly outdoors", when the readings are considered 'high', between seven and nine.

For 'very high' readings, people are warned to "reduce physical exertion, particularly outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms such as cough or sore throat".

But these new findings suggest people should not be overly concerned with cycling in the capital, where the scientists' research suggests that the benefits of active travel still outweigh the risk to health from pollution.

This will encourage City Hall bosses, where pro-cycling policies have enjoyed general political support.



■ ALL CHANGE: Work has begun on a £185 million designer outlet retail village which will "complete the vision" for The O2 venue. The development of the outlet, which will be similar to that at Bicester Village, is the most significant at the former Millennium Dome since it was converted into the world's most successful concert venue in 2007. The joint venture between Crosstree Real Estate Partners and Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) set to bring around 100 new shops and restaurants is due to open early in 2018. A spokesman said: "The aim is to complete the vision that AEG had when it first opened the building as The O2 in 2007 and utilising all the space on offer." The venue, which tops all the polls for the world's best music entertainment venue, also houses, in addition to its main arena, Building Six and Indigo clubs and more than 26 bars and restaurants



Waiter, there's a trolley in my soup

SOME of London's trend-setting restaurants are leaving a bad taste in the mouths of diners by trying to ditch the traditional dinner plate.

Punters have been left bemused by bricks, miniature shopping trolleys, cocktail glasses and even shovels which have supplanted the traditional plate.

However, the creative efforts of restaurant bosses have now prompted disgruntled diners to take to social media to voice their disgust.

Juanita Chen @ChenChatter thought her food was served on leftovers from a building site.

When she was presented with a brick she said: "Here's a way to take advantage of that nearby construction site."

Bob Granleese @bobgranleese could not contain his enthusiasm for his supermarket experience when he said: "Hey, tell you what would be a great idea, let's put the coleslaw in a shopping trolley."

The theatrical but impractical substitutes for conventional ways of serving food included the use of stone arches for starters and risotto-filled coffee mugs.

George Sudhakar was given a slice of tart on a flat board accompanied with a jug of custard which no doubt would have spilled off from the wooden serving dish.

Sometimes when it comes to presentation chefs leave all the artistic flair at the door and plonk for a minimalist approach, Rachael Hitchinson was served porridge in a tin which would not be out of place in a third-world prison.

Oh gosh it's Obama on our golf course

A GROUP of golfers were asked if the people behind could play through – because David Cameron and Barack Obama were late to meet the Queen.

Aaron Bell, 45, from south west London, was making his way through a leisurely round of golf at the exclusive Grove club with two colleagues when the leader of the free world asked if he could play through their game.

Obama told Mr Bell and his colleagues, Jon Purr and Dominic Moore, that he and his entourage were running late for the Queen's birthday celebrations on April 23.

Mr Bell, from Thames Ditton, said: "At each tee our group was closely followed by a very amiable security detail of bomb disposal, special forces, police snipers and US agents in suits and dark glasses.

"They asked us if we would let them play through as they had to get off quite quickly, as they were going to the Queen's birthday."

Obama and Prime Minister Cameron stopped for a chat and even posed for a photo with the pair before moving on to the next round.

Mr Bell, who works at communications consultancy Radley Yeldar, said: "Obama came over and thanked us for letting them play through. We were allowed to stand on the tee and watch them tee off."

LONDON WIDE

College honours its top achieving students

BY LWN REPORTER

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ACADEMIC excellence was celebrated at DLD College London after students were presented with coveted awards during a prestigious ceremony.

VIPs and parents gathered in the new atrium at the Westminster Bridge-based college to see the chosen students as they accepted their honorary awards.

Guests also enjoyed a variety of entertainment, including vocal and instrumental pieces as well as a performance from the college's ukulele group entitled a *Tribute to Two Great Men*, which was dedicated to rock stars David Bowie and Black star Colin Vearncombe.

The students who have stood out this academic year were nominated by teachers for their incredible achievements and successes.

The room was filled with applause as special guest Jenny Aviss, director of schools and colleges at the Alpha Plus Group, Richard Jones, director of property and principal Rachel Borland presented the students with their awards.

GCSE student Zara Ford, aged 18, received high praise as she picked up two accolades.

Zara won awards for Effort in Business and Consistent Effort



■ SALUTE TO SUCCESS: DLD College principal Rachel Borland addresses hundreds of guests while right, GCSE student Zara Ford receives special acclaim

in English. The college said she was "a worthy winner due to her incredible progress in both subjects throughout the year".

Principal at the college, Rachel Borland addressed the audience and said: "Today is all about our award winners and sadly, not everyone can be an award winner. I am really very

proud of them. They have done great things to receive an award with us here at DLD."

"We should reflect and cherish the hard work these young people put in to get these awards because we live in a fast paced society and we have to keep up with the pace."

Founded in 1931, DLD Col-

lege London is one of the oldest and most prestigious colleges in the UK, and since its foundation has built a strong reputation amongst students, parents, schools and universities.

In September 2015, the college relocated to brand new, purpose-built premises in the heart of London, on 199 West-

minster Bridge Road, overlooking Westminster and the River Thames.

The college offers students the chance to study a wide range and flexible combination of A-Levels, GCSEs, International Foundation courses and BTEC courses.

As part of the Alpha Plus

Group, DLD College aims to maintain what it calls a "gold standard" of educational quality. Classes are small, enabling students and teachers to focus upon the most effective ways of learning.

To find out more about DLD College London go to the website www.dldcollege.co.uk



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Heritage Healthcare Kensington
Owner & Director, Ayaaan Abdulie

Heritage Healthcare Kensington Owner and Director, Ayaaan Abdulie, is a highly organized individual, focused on providing an excellent service. Ayaaan is driven to provide her community with a homecare service which improves and enhances the lives of others.

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Sadiq's vision for a London



**VOTE
LONDON
MAYOR
2016**

■ I'M THE MAN: Sadiq Khan inside Southwark Cathedral on Saturday – where he was sworn in as the new Mayor of London after a comprehensive victory at the polls

BY JACK DIXON

At City Hall



SADIQ Khan was sworn in as the new Mayor of London after crushing Zac Goldsmith at the polls to claim a decisive election victory.

The Labour candidate denounced "the politics of fear" and pledged to unite London as he became the city's first Muslim mayor.

Londoners were made to wait until the early hours of Saturday morning for confirmation of the result due to problems with the electronic vote counting system.

But Mr Khan's victory had been all but guaranteed by around 5pm on Friday after picking up a huge share of first preference votes.

In a triumphant victory speech at City Hall, he promised to be a "mayor for all Londoners" and spoke of his "burning ambition" for the city.

"I grew up on a council estate just a few miles from here. Back then I never dreamed that someone like me could be elected as Mayor of London," he said. "I want to say thank you to every single Londoner for making the impossible possible today."

Mr Khan won 44.2 per cent of first preference votes and passed the 50 per cent victory mark once voters' second choices were added to the total.

He can now claim to have the biggest mandate of any London mayor in history, after more than 1.3 million Londoners – around 57 per cent – marked his name at the ballot box.

The heavy defeat will come as a crushing blow for Mr Goldsmith, the Conservative candidate, who was unable to run his Labour rival close despite a hard-fought campaign.

Recriminations began in the Tory camp before the result had even been confirmed, as senior Conservatives and even Mr Goldsmith's own sister, Jemima, expressed regret about the tone of his campaign.

Mr Goldsmith and his team were accused of adopting "dog whistle" tactics to discredit Mr Khan in the run-up to polling

day, with Conservative London Assembly member Andrew Boff and former party chairman Baroness Sayeeda Warsi among the Tory top brass to publicly criticise his campaign.

In a thinly-veiled attack on his opponent during his victory speech, Mr Khan said: "This election was not without controversy and I am so proud that London has today chosen hope over fear and unity over division. I hope that we will never be offered such a stark choice again."

MAYORAL RESULT

Sian BERRY (Green Party)

1st pref: 150,673
2nd pref: 468,318

David FURNESS (British National Party)

1st pref: 13,325
2nd pref: 36,168

George GALLOWAY (Respect – George Galloway)

1st pref: 37,007
2nd pref: 117,080

Paul GOLDING (Britain First – Putting British People First)

1st pref: 31,372
2nd pref: 73,883

Zac GOLDSMITH

(Conservative Party)
1st pref: 909,755
2nd pref: 250,214

Lee Eli HARRIS (Cannabis is Safer than Alcohol)

1st pref: 20,537
2nd pref: 67,495

Sadiq KHAN (Labour Party)

1st pref: 1,148,716
2nd pref: 388,090

Ankit LOVE (One Love Party)

1st pref: 4,941
2nd pref: 28,920

Caroline PIDGEON (London Liberal Democrats)

1st pref: 120,005
2nd pref: 335,931

Sophie WALKER (Women's Equality Party)

1st pref: 53,055
2nd pref: 198,720

Peter WHITTLE (UKIP)

1st pref: 94,373
2nd pref: 223,253

Prince ZYLINSKI

(Independent)
1st pref: 13,202
2nd pref: 24,646

"Fear does not make us safe, it only makes us weaker. The politics of fear is simply not welcome in our city."

Mr Khan's victory was not made official until 12.30am on Saturday morning after problems with the electronic vote counting system delayed the announcement.

Election officers said "minor discrepancies" in the voting figures were discovered once all ballots had been registered and scanned into the system, which set back the result by several hours.

A spokesman for London Elects, the organisation that managed the count, stressed that the discrepancies were "not in any way material to the overall result", despite speculation that the election could be heading for a recount.

Mr Khan's victory capped a positive day for Labour in the capital, as the party also picked up an extra London Assembly seat. Leonie Cooper's win in Merton and Wandsworth was the only constituency seat to swing from the Conservatives to Labour, while UKIP picked up two seats – its first in London – and the Liberal Democrats lost one.

Speaking to *London Weekly News* in the final weeks of the campaign, Mr Khan emphasised key election pledges on housing, transport and crime.

He promised to set up his own housing taskforce to ensure 50,000 homes are built in each year of his mayoralty and outlined plans for a London-wide not-for-profit lettings agency to help renters. Other key election pledges included a four-year freeze on tube, train and bus fares, and a commitment to restoring neighbourhood policing as a Met priority.

During an emotional speech, Mr Khan paid tribute to his late father – bus driver Amanullah Khan – and emphasised his determination to help Londoners of all backgrounds.

"I am so proud of our city and I am deeply humbled by the hope and trust you have placed in me today," he added.

"I want every single Londoner to get the opportunities that our city gave to me – the opportunity not just to survive but to thrive."



■ ON THEIR WAY TO VICTORY: Sadiq Khan arrives at the polling station to cast his vote in the London mayoral election with his wife Saadiq

Picture: Joe Newman/SWNS

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of opportunity for everyone



■ POWERFUL POSITION: Sadiq Khan leaving Southwark Cathedral among crowds of supporters and press after a ceremony to be sworn in as the new Mayor Picture: Vickie Flores/LNP/REX/Shutterstock

Why was the result so long coming?

A LIVE feed of the votes being counted showed that Sadiq Khan had a commanding lead from early on Friday morning and his victory became increasingly certain as ballots were registered, scanned and verified throughout the day.

By the time first preference votes were declared shortly after 5pm, Labour supporters were already toasting victory.

So why did it take until after midnight for the result to be officially declared?

London Elects, the independent organisation responsible for managing the count, used a three-stage electronic vote counting system, which was designed by contractor In-Elect to speed up the process.

Ballot boxes were delivered overnight to the three count

centres – Alexandra Palace, the ExCel centre and Olympia – where they were registered and any spoilt or invalid papers removed.

The votes were then scanned into the e-counting machines and verified one by one.

It was at this stage – as the crucial second preference votes were being counted – that checks revealed “minor discrepancies” in the mayoral figures, although officials later stressed that these were “not in any way material to the overall result”.

At 9.30pm London Elects said it was “working towards” a midnight declaration and the candidates were eventually gathered at around 12.30am for confirmation of the result.

Jeffrey Jacobs, the Greater

London Returning Officer, announced a review of the vote-counting process hours after the declaration.

He said: “Obviously we regret the delay but it was absolutely right and proper to take the few additional hours in order to ensure we produced a robust set of figures.

“I must take this opportunity to thank everyone – candidates, agents, media, staff and most importantly, Londoners – for their patience.

“After every London Election since 2000, the Greater London Authority has held a full review into the way the election was conducted.”

Mr Jacobs added: “I intend to hold my own investigation and will co-operate fully with any other review.”

LONDON ASSEMBLY ROUND-UP AND RESULTS

UKIP won its first ever London Assembly seats as Labour remained the largest party in City Hall.

Peter Whittle and David Kurten took two seats for Nigel Farage's party after UKIP's strongest showing in a London election. Mr Whittle said the result was a “huge breakthrough” for UKIP and that he was “proud” to be “the voice for ordinary Londoners”.

Labour held onto 12 seats, pinching Merton and Wandsworth from the Conservatives, who were reduced to only eight Assembly members on a disappointing election day.

The Green Party claimed that it was now “London's third party” after winning two of the remaining three seats, while the Liberal Democrats were left with just one representative in City Hall.

Long-serving Assembly members Fiona Twycross, Tom Copley and Nicky Gavron will continue for Labour, while Andrew Boff is joined by Kemi Badenoch and Shaun Bailey for the Conservatives.

The Women's Equality Party – backed by comedian Sandi Toksvig – did well despite failing to win a seat, picking up 91,722 votes.



■ FIRST: UKIP's Peter Whittle, above, and David Kurten



London Assembly election results

CONSTITUENCY MEMBERS

Andrew DISMORE (Lab HOLD) - Barnet and Camden
Gareth BACON (Cons HOLD) - Bexley and Bromley
Navin SHAH (Lab HOLD) - Brent and Harrow

Unmesh DESAI (Lab HOLD) - City and East
Stephen O'CONNELL (Cons HOLD) - Croydon and Sutton

Onkar Singh SAHOTA (Lab HOLD) - Ealing and Hillingdon
Kemi Badenoch (Cons) - Ealing and Hillingdon
TOM COPLEY (Lab)

JOANNE MCCARTNEY (Lab HOLD) - Enfield and Haringey

Len DUVALL (Lab HOLD) - Greenwich and Lewisham

Keith PRINCE (Con HOLD) - Havering and Redbridge

Florence ESHALOMI (Lab HOLD) - Lambeth and Southwark

Leonie COOPER (Lab GAIN) - Merton and Wandsworth

Jennette ARNOLD (Lab HOLD) - North East

Tony ARBOUR (Con HOLD) - South West
Tony DEVENISH (Con HOLD) - West Central

LONDON-WIDE MEMBERS

Sian BERRY (Green)
Andrew BOFF (Cons)
Shaun BAILEY (Cons)
Peter WHITTLE (UKIP)
Fiona TWYCROSS (Lab)
Nicky GAVRON (Lab)
Caroline PIDGEON (Lib Dems)
Caroline RUSSELL (Green)
David KURTEN (UKIP)
Kemi Badenoch (Cons)
Tom COPLEY (Lab)

TOTAL

■ LABOUR - 12
■ CONSERVATIVES - 8
■ GREEN - 2
■ UKIP - 2
■ LIB DEMS - 1

VICTORY SPEECH: 'WE HAVE MADE THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE'

“LONDON is the greatest city in the world and I am so proud of our city.

“I am deeply humbled by the hope and trust you have placed in me today.

“I grew up on a council estate just a few miles from here. Back then I never dreamed that someone like me could be elected as Mayor of London.

“I want to say thank you to every single Londoner for making the impossible possible today.

“I have a burning ambition for

London that will guide me every day as mayor of our great city.

“I want every single Londoner to get the opportunities that our city gave to me – the opportunity not just to survive but to thrive.

“I have been thinking a lot about my late Dad today. He would have been so proud – proud that the city he chose to call his home has now chosen one of his children to be the mayor.

“This election was not without controversy and I am so proud

that London has today chosen hope over fear and unity over division. I hope that we will never be offered such a stark choice again.

“Fear does not make us safe, it only makes us weaker. The politics of fear is simply not welcome in our city.

“I want to make a promise to London. I promise to always be a mayor for all Londoners, and to work hard to make life better for every Londoner regardless of their background.”

“Step-free access. Essential for me and pretty useful for the pram”

James, 28. A new dad and a wheelchair user.



Accessibility updates and a number of step-free route options mean James can take his son to see his grandparents every weekend. To see his full story search TfL Accessibility and see if you could take more journeys than you think.

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*Service and network charges may apply. See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.

MAYOR OF LONDON

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS

LONDON WIDE

Pub treats Macmillan nurses

A PUB is offering Hammersmith Macmillan nurses a free roast dinner every Sunday throughout May to thank them for their hard work.

The Osp on Fulham Palace Road, which is owned by Greene King, is inviting all Macmillan nurses to enjoy a free roast dinner every Sunday this month as part of the pub's Macmillan May fundraising drive.

It is International Nurses Day on Thursday, May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

To claim the meal, Macmillan nurses and professionals simply need to present Macmillan identification when placing an order.

Vicky Calver, general manager at Osp, said: "Macmillan nurses work



■ HELP: Macmillan nurses

tirelessly to support people with cancer, and their care makes such a difference in the local community. We're proud to support Macmillan."

Macmillan is the pub company's chosen charity after raising more than £2 million in the last three years, and this is just one of a number of activities the Osp is staging this year.

Rage Rover: car a 'write off'

A RED-FACED motorist jumped into his £90,000 Range Rover after somebody spray-painted "cheater" on its side.

The man, wearing a white T-shirt and sunglasses, refused to speak as he jumped into the white car which was ruined with spray paint outside luxury department store Harrods.

The unlucky man was even issued a parking ticket on the 4x4 parked on double yellow lines.

The red writing said: "I hope she was worth it" – suggesting the message was left by a disgruntled partner.

Dozens of tourists stopped to pose with the car, which was parked on Basil Street in Knightsbridge. It drove off along Rysbrick Street to an unknown location.



■ OOPS: Someone saw red

Fazzaan Mughal, from Mayfair, spotted the car. The 27-year-old fashion worker said: "People were crowding the car and taking photos."

"The car is worth £90,000 – she must have been pretty annoyed."

"To be honest I just found it funny. Loads of people were laughing."

Feeling the fill force of the law

POLICE forces across the UK have spent almost £400,000 repairing cars after officers filled them with the wrong fuel – and the Met are the worst offenders.

Figures obtained by *Auto Express* revealed there have been more than 2,100 embarrassing mishaps since 2011.

It works out at more than one incident per day, with the problem getting worse.

With an average repair cost of £181.68 for every incident, it has cost police forces a total of £390,061, according to the data released under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Met Police were the biggest culprit, racking up £167,118 in repair costs, with Kent Police (£25,629) the second worst.



■ FUELISH: Met police

Luke Bosdet, a spokesman for the AA, told *Auto Express*: "It's an annoying and avoidable mistake that will take a vehicle off the road and place an extra burden on stretched resources."

"But it shows that police officers are human like the rest of us. Stress and pre-occupied minds are often the cause of misfuelling mistakes."



■ THEY'RE OFF: Runners set off at the start of the Westminster Mile in 2013. This year's event, sponsored by Vitality, takes place on May 29

On your marks for the Westminster Mile

BY LWN REPORTER

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's mascot Chirpy Cockerel may be struggling to live up to his name at the moment but he hopes that will change when he bids for glory at the Vitality Westminster Mile on Sunday, May 29.

For the first time, the iconic sporting and fundraising event will feature a mascot race including the chief supporters of a number of the country's top sporting clubs.

Spurs' mascot Chirpy was one of the first to sign up to the event and, though he's been feeling down in the dumps since his side's Premier League title challenge came to an end, the

White Hart Lane cockerel will be hoping to be cock-a-hoop on the streets of Westminster.

Among the mascots already confirmed to be lining up against the Chirpy Cockerel are Spark the bear, the mascot of Championship side Queens Park Rangers, and Pinky the Panther, the cuddly supporter of Middlesex County Cricket Club.

The first mascot to finish will win £1,000 for development activities.

Going head to head in another wave at this year's Vitality Westminster Mile are more than 60 former British Olympians, including three gold medallists from past Games.

Steve Batchelor and Richard



■ ONE TO WATCH: Ice queen Shelley Rudman, a Winter Games silver medallist, will be running

Leman were part of the famous GB hockey squad that gripped the nation in 1988 as they won gold at the Seoul Games.

The pair will join up with a third gold medal winner, Jane Holderness-Roddam, who was part of the triumphant British equestrian team from the 1968 Mexico Games.

Britain's ice queen Shelley Rudman will also be taking part along with her husband Kristian Bromley. Shelley won a silver medal in the skeleton at the Turin Winter Games in 2006 while husband Kristian competed in four Winter Games in the same event.

Another famous face competing, who is no stranger to running, is Kelly Sootherton.

Heptathlete Kelly won a bronze medal at the Athens Games in 2004 and so nearly replicated that four years later in Beijing when she finished fourth.

Many more British former Olympians are expected on the start line.

The Vitality Westminster Mile is held on the most iconic mile in the world, starting on The Mall and finishing in front of Buckingham Palace. It was launched in 2013 to build on the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Organised by London Marathon Events Limited, in partnership with Westminster City Council

■ For a report and pictures from the event, watch out for your local *London Weekly News* title on Tuesday, May 31

so everyone can take part. There are races for families, adults and veterans, juniors, elite athletes and wheelchair users.

Online entry for the run closed on Friday.

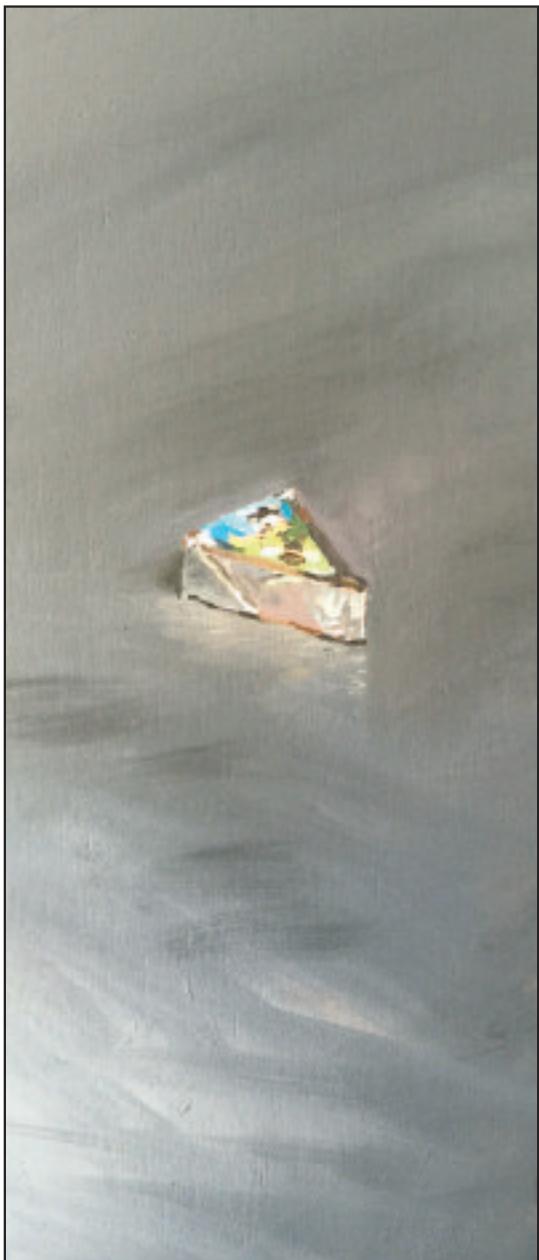
■ The Westminster Mile, an Olympic legacy event, was first staged in 2013

■ The winner of the elite men's race is awarded the Bannister Trophy and the winner of the elite women's race is awarded the Leather Trophy

■ The Westminster Mile is organised by London Marathon Events Ltd in partnership with Westminster City Council

■ For a report and pictures from the event, watch out for your local *London Weekly News* title on Tuesday, May 31

LONDON WIDE



■ ART SPREAD: One of Christian Furr's oil paintings in which he has studied the 'strange beauty' of the humble Dairylea cheese

Cheese art cracking a new market

WORLD-FAMOUS artist Christian Furr has turned his focus away from traditional portraits and towards the strange beauty of the humble cheese with an exhibition in London.

The new collection, entitled *The Humble Cheese*, is running now at Knight Webb Gallery, in Atlantic Road, Brixton, until Tuesday, May 31.

Furr, who was the youngest artist to be commissioned to paint an official portrait of the Queen, was inspired to begin this collection after painting a half bottle of sour milk that was on a window ledge, in front of a beautiful decaying period 1940s wallpaper in his Acme studio in 1992.

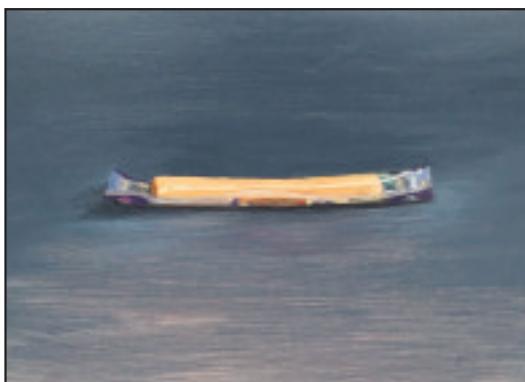
The artist has since painted hundreds of 'grandmaster' cheeses of Great Britain and France, including a Neufchatel which was bought, prior to the show's opening, by the title designer of the James Bond films, Daniel Kleinman.

Furr has also enjoyed combining the slow artisan food with fast and famous processed cheeses like the well-loved Primula, Dairylea and Babybel, the latter of which has already been bought by fellow artist and wife of comedian Harry Hill, Magda Archer.

The cheese has become the artist's metaphor for simplicity, tradition and artisan dedication and Furr's talent captures the uniqueness of each cheese in every skilful brush stroke, say the exhibition's publicists.

Furr said: "As an artist I have a passion for food and wine, as well as art. A good cheese is a pleasure to look at as well as to eat."

"The only difficulty I face in capturing a cheese is that if it's a soft one, it begins to melt. This forces me to work quickly to capture the moment."



■ FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Christian Furr and his cheese paintings

country of how best to promote mixing between the ethnic majority and various minorities—because in London the ethnic majority is increasingly absent, especially in schools.

In Newham, for example, the issue is how to encourage more mixing between the three different South Asian groups (Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani) who make up the majority of the population.

Unmesh Desai described what is sometimes called the "Newham model" in which "single identity" funding of the multi-culturalism era is no longer allowed and the stress is upon using public funding to promote English language tuition and contact across the different minority groups. Has this made for a more integrated borough? It is hard to tell.

Shiria Khatun said that although Tower Hamlets would be developing its own model there would be significant overlaps with what Newham has been pioneering. This would not, she admitted, be able to

promote more mixing in schools, most of which are overwhelmingly Bangladeshi.

Sunder Katwala, whose British Future has proposed that whoever wins the London mayoral election should establish an office for citizenship and integration, said that London had a particular problem of temporary and short-term migration

which contributed to a high level of churn.

Ben Judah, who spent months experiencing the underside of London immigration for his book *This is London*, described the twilight world of Russian and Romanian sub-minimum wage labour and said that unlike the post-colonial immigrants to London 50 years ago these groups could not easily achieve a stake in this society.

Rohan Silva talked about segregated housing and recommended a more "muscular" approach to preventing ghettoisation in public housing estates by borrowing from Singapore the idea of strict limits on the number of residents from one group.

The debate ranged over some of the difficult practicalities of promoting mixing in a liberal society.

There was also discussion of the curriculum in faith schools, the importance of citizenship ceremonies and increasingly segregated media consumption.

Head north for £1 home

CASH-STRAPPED Londoners struggling to get on the property ladder might be encouraged to move north to get a cheap roof over their heads.

Britain's cheapest home could be theirs for the price of a loaf of bread—but it needs a lot of work.

The bargain £1 price is for a long-neglected, rundown three-bedroom flat which has a shared balcony, clipped gardens and a lot of renovation work required before someone could live in it.

Pictures advertising the property in Upperton, North Lanarkshire, show the ceiling of one bedroom has caved in, with debris and litter left lying on the floor. Meanwhile, the door to the dirty bathroom has collapsed off its hinges and the bare kitchen has been left to rot. Other properties in the block of flats have previously sold for more than £30,000.

Despite its obvious faults the online description of the flat hails it as an "exceptional property".

It says: "Exceptional opportunity to purchase this three bedroom top floor flat in a quiet residential area of Upperton. The property is comprised of entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, vestibule, three bedrooms and family bathroom. There is also a shared balcony that can be accessed via the kitchen. The property requires significant upgrading throughout but offers huge potential for development. On completion of works, this fantastic opportunity would be an ideal buy to let investment offering an outstanding potential rental yield."

Mandi Cooper, associate director of sellers Auction House Scotland, is confident that the property will sell when it goes to auction in Glasgow on May 18.

New business 'club' to open

THE Clubhouse, one of London's leading business clubs and meeting spaces, is to open a new flagship site in St James's Square.

The new building was designed by renowned architect Eric Parry and sits on a site that was once home to Josiah Wedgwood, the founder of Wedgwood Pottery. The premises will be able to count Chatham House, Rio Tinto, BP and the In & Out Club as its neighbours.

It will occupy a prime 12,760 sq ft space, which is over 50 per cent larger than The Clubhouse at 11-14 Grafton Street and double the size of The Clubhouse at 50 Grosvenor Hill in Mayfair.

Its owners say the new Clubhouse has been designed around the needs of its members and will offer "a unique, sophisticated and flexible meeting and work space tailored to the needs of today's entrepreneurs and growing businesses".

They say: "Home to businesses of all shapes and sizes and across all industry sectors, on offer is a range of individually designed meeting rooms, hot desks, touch down spaces, lounge areas, dedicated desks, flexible meeting areas, a Club café, event spaces and conference facilities for up to 90 delegates. In addition, The Clubhouse will be launching its first innovation hub for use by members with a fully interactive video wall."

Integration: London is 'a special case'

BY LVN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON'S cosmopolitan society came under scrutiny at a public debate last week.

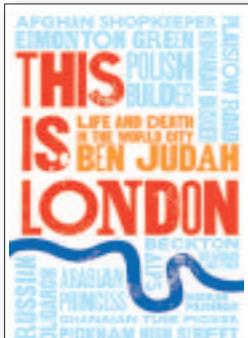
The event, hosted by the think tank Policy Exchange sought to discuss whether London is a well integrated multi-ethnic city or not.

The majority of speakers and those in the audience assumed that the usually optimistic narrative of London as a multi-ethnic success story did not tell the whole story: rubbing along together is not the same as being

integrated or sharing any kind of common life.

The speakers included Shiria Khatun (deputy mayor of Tower Hamlets), Unmesh Desai (Newham councillor and adviser to mayor Robin Wales on cohesion issues), Sunder Katwala (director of British Future), Ben Judah (author of *This is London*) and Rohan Silva (former adviser to David Cameron).

London emerged as a special case. It has neither the entrenched "parallel lives" of the northern mill towns nor the issue in much of the rest of the



■ CONCERN: Ben Judah outlined many of the issues that Londoners face

LONDON WIDE

Holocaust survivor makes powerful case for rescuing Syrian youngsters



■ COURAGE: Ruth Barnett told an audience in Westminster how she was spared Nazi persecution

BY LWN REPORTER

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HOLOCAUST survivor Ruth Barnett, who fled to England as a child to escape Nazi persecution, gave a powerful talk at the Cardinal Hume Centre in Westminster.

She explained how on November 9, 1938, 'Kristallnacht' or 'Night of the Broken Glass' brought the Nazis' actions to the attention of the rest of the world.

It was after this blatant display of violence and hatred that the English government organised for children from Germany and Austria to be sent over – without their parents – to England.

Ten thousand Jewish children were sent on trains over to England on the Kindertransport. One of these children, Ruth, was four years old when she travelled with her older brother to England.

A spokesman for the Cardinal Hume Centre, which helps people overcome poverty and homelessness, said: "We were lucky enough to have Ruth in the centre to talk to us about her journey and the positive impact the acceptance of the Jewish refugee children by the British public had."

"She stressed the importance of not being indifferent to the suffering of others and doing what we can to help. This particularly resonates now because of the thousands of refugees who have no other option than to come to Europe in the hope of a better life; many of these being unaccompanied minors."

"Ruth also spoke about how important it is for us to understand the trauma of war and separation; when Ruth was reunited with her parents she saw them as strangers, for ten years she had grown up in England and heard propaganda about how bad her home country Germany was; so much so that she was very reluctant to return there with her parents when the war was over."

"She no longer spoke German and although she initially

moved back to Germany Ruth ended up coming back to England and settling here."

She drew stark similarities with the current political climate; in particular the amendment brought forward by Lord Dubs to accept a further 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees which was rejected in the Commons vote last month. There were just 18 votes stopping an amendment to the Immigration Bill being passed – and a further 3,000 children being given a better life in the UK.

The spokesman added: "There is no argument more powerful for accepting the unaccompanied refugee children than the testament and success of those who travelled on the Kindertransport, an experience both Ruth and Lord Dubs shared."

"We need to continue using the lessons of the past to not only make sure we learn from the mistakes but also to repeat the positive things. In this case it is accepting unaccompanied minors fleeing from war torn countries and helping them make a better life for themselves."

■ The Cardinal Hume Centre enables people to gain the skills they need to overcome poverty and homelessness.

The centre gives homeless young people, families in need and local people the support they need to realise their full potential.

The centre focuses on four areas of need: income, housing, education and skills, and legal status.

Cardinal Basil Hume, its founder, was a Benedictine monk and the centre draws particularly on Benedictine teaching, looking to welcome 'as Christ' each person who comes to the centre, providing sanctuary and hospitality to people from all backgrounds.

They believe that each person is created in the image of God, and is therefore valuable and precious with the right to the fullness of life: in the words of Cardinal Hume, "each person matters; no human life is redundant".

Children issue carnival plea

NORTH Kensington's Venture Centre is looking to crowdfund £5,000 in order to hire a float and create costumes so that some 40 children can take part in the Notting Hill Carnival.

Each year local children watch the carnival pass by until this year they have not been able to take part in the parade.

Now the organisation has turned to the civic crowdfunding platform Spacehive in a bid to raise the money so the children can join the parade and in the process learn how to make their own carnival costumes and find out about the event's history.

So far it has raised £855 but is hoping to drum up more support from residents and businesses. Companies that pledge more than £250 can have their name and branding on the float.

The centre needs to hit its target by May 20 or it will lose any money pledged.

Over 200 local children use the Venture Centre for a variety of activities each week, including its steel pan band and the adventure playground.

Nammi Padi, director of the venture centre, which was established in 1960, said: "This is an opportunity for our kids to partake in local life, building their sense of pride in their neighbourhood."

"It's also an opportunity for the children to learn craftsman skills as well as teamwork; an opportunity for them to build their confidence, explore their creative side, and learn about carnival culture and traditions."

To pledge support for the Venture Kids Carnival go to the secure website and follow the instructions to offer help: www.spacehive.com/kids-carnival

Balanced view of working life

A BETTER balance of home and work life can improve job performance, research suggests.

The traditional view is that employees need a strict separation between home and work, in order to maintain concentration and high performance. This can include ignoring work emails at home, and not taking personal calls in the office. But new research suggests more flexible working arrangements could help employees to improve their performance at work.

And it could also improve well-being, researchers argue in the journal *Human Relations*.

Doctor Brandon Smit said: "In the long run, it may be better to allow employees' minds to wander and take occasional phone calls from home rather than set up policies that establish strict and inflexible boundaries, which could discourage the development of functional ways to juggle both."

The researchers outlined how people with flexible working arrangements are likely to develop ways to move between home and work more efficiently, and with less stress.

Their study finds that workers who use these policies – such as "flexitime" and "flexiplace" – experienced less disruption to job performance during times when home interruptions spilled over into the workplace.

The study was published by Sage in partnership with The Tavistock Institute.

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TOTTENHAM Hotspur Football Club say they hope to announce sometime in the next few weeks that they have agreed a deal to play their home fixtures at Wembley in the 2017-18 season.

Next term will be Tottenham's last at White Hart Lane. They will need to spend a year away from their traditional home while construction is completed on the new £400million, 61,000-seater ground.

Wembley and Stadium MK, home of MK Dons, were

the favourites but the former are thought to be close to an agreement with the FA. Work on the new ground means about 4,000 seats may have to be removed from the North Stand of White Hart Lane next season.

So Spurs have been looking at playing Champions League matches at Wembley next term. Chelsea also want to use Wembley while Stamford Bridge is being expanded but their plans are not as advanced as Spurs'.

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ROYAL LONDON

Look out! That workout video is not the Duchess

AFTER boosting the British fashion industry with the copycat Kate Effect, now *Vogue* cover girl the Duchess of Cambridge is being used to front a blitz on body fat with new workout videos of her at the gym.

Dressed in tight leggings and a skimpy top, the Duchess is seen crawling on all fours wearing "a resistance band" to firm up her thighs in the latest *Keep Fit With Kate* video that is becoming all the rage on Facebook and YouTube.

"Ooo, I've really had enough. I just hope that William will be pleased," she says as she works out in the film that promises fans they can "get the Duchess look".

"After a long day in high heels the stretch and tone is blissful," says Kate in one of three films from the gym newly posted on Facebook. But eagle-eyed observers of the video will wonder why Kate is wearing high heels in the gym as she exercises through the Inverted Crab Walk and other stretch-and-tone fab fighting? Is that the way a royal works out, in five-inch heels?

The suspicious are right to be alert because the *Keep Fit With Kate* videos



■ REALLY! Duchess of Cambridge lookalike Heidi Agan

are not as they seem. Rather than being the latest royal sensation, they are new films from BAFTA-winning royal spoofier Alison Jackson, who hired Kate lookalike Heidi Agan to convincingly pose as the real thing in the gym.

Due to her uncanny resemblance to the Duchess, Heidi is fooling many royal fans, especially from abroad, and is reported to be earning up to £9,000 a week from special appearances and promotions playing at being her fa-

mous doppelganger. Although Kensington Palace does not comment on the rash of *Cash In On Kate* stunts, it is believed that the royals may not be entirely amused by the fakery, not least as some of it is rather near the knuckle.

There are three main Kate clones now for hire in the UK; Heidi Agan, Jodie Bredo and Gabriella Douglas.

Gabriella, who has featured on the cover of many magazines and has appeared on the BBC and ITV2's *Xtra Factor*, says the highlights of her career include "being mobbed by tourists whilst shopping in Harrods", proving that many do fall for the fake thing.

Other highlights have apparently included posing as the Duchess in advertising for Pizza Hut, *Woman's Own* and the online fashion site Not In The High Street.

Capitalising on Kate's image is good business for big business and Heidi Agan – who bills herself as "the UK's most realistic Kate Middleton lookalike" – has appeared in a cheeky commercial selling Body Shop gifts for Mother's Day, alongside a fake Charles and Camilla and spitting image Queen whose corgis trash the Prince of

Wales's rose garden at a fake Highgrove.

The latest cash-in, which also stars Heidi and her ersatz royal pals, is a commercial making the somewhat-unconvincing claim of The Queen celebrating her 90th birthday with her family at a Toby Carvery, as one does.

Whilst the commercials may raise a chuckle at the palace, some of Alison Jackson's photo-fakery may also raise an eyebrow as her more risqué pictures of Jodie Bredo as Kate include "Kate" braless trying on her mother-in-law's crown, "Kate" naked in a bath with "William" and "Kate" canoodling up in bed to a leering "prince" whilst wearing sexy silk lingerie.

However, when it comes to outraging royalists Ms Jackson's studies of sexy "Kate" are nothing compared to other imagery on her website which includes a shot of "The Queen" in the bathroom and cleverly-faked footage of Her Majesty having her legs waxed, let alone a study of "the Duke of Edinburgh" admiring a porno portrait of "Marilyn Monroe" that is highly unlikely to ever be published on the cover of *Vogue*.

King William, long may he reign over us

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FOLLOWING Prince Harry's amused remark that he never expects to be king, statisticians have been working out when his brother could come to the throne and although the answer is "a long time yet", when he does he could reign forever and ever.

Harry disappointed his many fans recently when he was challenged by a nine-year-old who asked him, "are you ever going to be King?"

"That's the question everyone wanted, let's be honest," laughed Harry, who is fifth in line to the throne, "you'll be glad to know, probably not!"

Although his brother Prince William is more immediately in line, according to the maths he could be looking at not being crowned until he is almost in his seventies.

It's all to do with the genes, and the royal family's are very good ones.

This year we celebrate The Queen's 90th birthday and the nation is delighted that Her Majesty is showing little sign of ageing or slowing up much. Her Majesty's mother, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, lived until she was 101 and there is no indication that The Queen will not live until at least the same age.

As Her Majesty has steadfastly determined never to abdicate, that means that Prince Charles, currently aged 67, could be at least 78 before he becomes king. Assuming that Charles inherits his mother's and grandmother's excellent longevity, Prince William would not succeed him for another 24 years after that, around 2051, when he is nudging 68.

All of this indicates a change in the appearance and ways of the monarchy and if the predictions are correct we will become used to having a succession of older sovereigns. But that's OK because it will be in keeping with the ways of the new world ahead, people are generally living for longer and futurologists expect that we will live for much longer yet.

But what sort of realm would King William inherit around 2050?

According to those expert in these matters, King William could find that science has so advanced by 2050 that he could be king for eternity. For US-based neuroscientist Randal Koene is working on a computer system that could enable people to live forever.

His solution sounds simple: he plans to upload his brain to a computer. By mapping the brain, reducing its activity to computations, and reproducing those computations in code, Koene argues, humans could live indefinitely, emulated by silicon.

"When I say emulation, you should think of it, for example, in the same sense as emulating a Macintosh on a PC," he said. "It's kind of like platform-independent code."

Respected bodies are taking the prediction seriously. Referencing Koene's dramatic work, *Newsweek* recently reported: "By 2045 computers might be so good that we may be able to upload digital versions of our brains and live forever, some speculate."

If Williams opts to become Britain's first computerised king, what will lie before him? According to a projection by the Population Reference Bureau, it will be a much more densely-populated kingdom. The Bureau expects the UK population to rise to almost 80 million by 2050, an increase of nearly a third.

With predictions that most people will be living in London and the South

East, any sign of a green belt in King William's land will be long gone.

"To fly over our landscape in the autumn of 2050 — if you are one of the lucky minority who can afford the massive fuel duty — is to be reminded how much things have changed," historian Dominic Sandbrook forecast in the *Mail Online* four years back.

"In great swathes of southern and central England, our green and pleasant land has long since disappeared. A sea of grey spreads out from London all the way to Britain's Second City, Milton Keynes. With increasingly strident demands for more housing, the last green-belt restrictions were removed in the early 2030s. Ever since, developers have been enjoying a bonanza, from the vast estates sprawling across the Chiltern hillsides to the luxury retirement communities in the South Downs and the Lake District. Looking down from your aeroplane window, you can see the jagged lines of Britain's private motorways carving across the countryside. By the early 2040s, eight lanes had become the norm. And even though electric cars are commonplace, many people still use the old petrol models, bathing much of suburban Britain in a fog of exhaust smoke."

But other futurology disagrees. Some scientists predict that the London skyline will be dominated by "farm-

scrapers", huge towers which will be vertical farms mass-producing food in skyscrapers that will also double up as offices and homes.

In the skies, the airways will be dominated by swarms of delivery drones, say the experts, delivering everything from pizza orders to your door, while beneath them London's roads will be dominated by self-driving robo-taxis.

"Driverless electric vehicles will be the norm, with petrol and diesel engines banned from cities," predicts Dr Madsen Pirie, president of the influential Adam Smith Institute.

"They will be free to re-charge. Inside they will not have two rows of forward-facing seats, but some will be customized as extensions of the home or office, some even with folding beds.

"People will be prepared to commute longer, given such comforts, and this might make city housing less attractive and therefore less expensive."

Dr Pirie also predicts that London will be greener, much greener, with rapidly-growing trees genetically cultivated and the meat that many eat will come from laboratories rather than farms. Dr Pirie forecasts that agriculture will have experienced a green revolution, with genetically modified crops that are self-fertilizing, pest-resistant, saline tolerant, drought resistant, altitude capable, heat tolerant and cold tolerant, and ones that can grow on land previous thought insufficiently fertile. Many of these will be developed in UK laboratories and universities, as will trees that can mature in six years instead of 50. Tree cover will be many times what it is today.

New genetically hybridized vegetables will be available to eat, the paper says, as will inexpensive lab-grown meats, bringing an end to factory farming as we know it and delivering substantial environmental gains, as well as freeing up large amounts of land for recreational use. Micro-organisms will be developed to produce nourishing food very cheaply and in abundance.

Futurist Ian Pearson, a fellow at the World Academy for Arts and Science, predicts that King William's London could touch the clouds.

Mr Pearson recently told *Business Insider* that London of 2050 could see buildings that could be as tall as 18-miles-high.



■ THIS ONE WILL RUN AND RUN: Could William be king forever when he comes to the throne?

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

THIS will be a knight to remember – Sir Mick Jagger, Sir Elton John and Sir Paul McCartney are all set to get invitations to perform for Donald Trump at The White House, writes Geoff Baker.

In the increasingly-likely event of Mr Trump becoming the next President of the United States, “you’re hired” invites are expected to go out to the top Brits to party with the former host of *The Apprentice*.

Also on the guest list will be Mr Trump’s pal Piers Morgan, along with movie hardman Jean Claude Van Damme, Aerosmith’s Steve Tyler and Neil Young.

Although it is debatable whether some of these stars are fans of Mr Trump – both Sir Elton and The Rolling Stones have objected to The Donald using their songs on his campaign trail to become the Republican candidate for the presidency – the invitations are tipped to go out because Mr Trump is a fan of them.

When asked to list his top musicians, Mr Trump named the Stones, Elton, Macca, Aerosmith, Crosby Stills Nash and Young and Neil Young as his “terrific” personal favourites.

Speaking highly of Neil Young, Mr Trump said: “He’s got something very special. I’ve listened to his music for years and I’ve seen him live. I went to the concert where they were honouring Bob Dylan years ago at Madison Square Garden and Neil got up and totally brought the house down. There was nobody close. He’s performed for me at my casinos over the years and he just brings it down. I’ve met him on occasions and he’s a terrific guy. His voice is perfect and haunting.”

Mr Trump’s fan worship may sit uneasily with Young, who has been long thought to be a Democrat supporter and has objected to the property tycoon using his song *Rockin’ In The Free World* at his rallies.

Who'll play for President Trump?



■ FAVOURITE: Donald Trump is a big fan of Neil Young

However, as Mr Trump picks his own playlist music, *Rockin’ In The Free World* is expected to get a lot more airing yet when the Republican front-runner takes on Democrat Hillary Clinton in the race for The White House.

Mr Trump is also expected to use Paul McCartney’s post 9/11 song *Freedom* as part of his campaign, which could be awkward for Macca as the Beatle is close personal friends with Mrs Clinton and her ex-President husband Bill.

Other stars who are expected to get invitations to Mr Trump’s White House balls if blue-collar America elects him as their next President include actors from his favourite movies; Al Pacino and James Caan from *The Godfather*, Robert De Niro from *Goodfellas* and Jean Claude Van Damme from the 1988 martial arts

film *Bloodsport*, which Mr Trump likes to watch on his private plane and which he describes as “an incredible, fantastic film”.

Meanwhile, Mrs Clinton is expected to seek the help of Hollywood in persuading celebrity-obsessed USA in defeating Mr Trump. Among the artists who have spoken out against the curiously-quiffed Republican are: Bette Midler, Richard Gere, Shakira, Cher, Johnny Depp, Jennifer Lawrence, George Clooney, J.K. Rowling, Ben Stiller, Samuel L. Jackson, Susan Sarandon and Jack Black.

Also, Kensington estate agents may care to start preparing pads fit for the stars as a number of celebs, including Whoopi Goldberg and Miley Cyrus, have vowed to leave America and move abroad if Mr Trump wins The White House.

Rob's got to go, say Archers fans

SPOILER alert – but it’s excellent news. BBC bosses have decided that Rob Titchener, the most hated character in the 65-year history of *The Archers*, is to die.

Oh dear, said nobody ever.

Following the furious backlash of protests against the detestable and deceitful wife-bully, radio chiefs have realised that when the Rob and Helen saga finally ends listeners will stand for nothing less than that Rob has been killed off.

The only problem is how?

Writers of the radio soap are currently debating a variety of ways that Rob should finally get his come-uppance after it will be revealed that he

is the black-hearted villain behind so much upset in Ambridge.

“It’s been discussed that when Rob is finally exposed as the complete and utter creep that listeners know him to be that he should be sent to prison,” said an insider. “But that idea has been thrown out because the feeling is that listeners won’t stand for the possibility that he could ever make a comeback. Unlike *Dirty Den* in *EastEnders*, who had quite a large following of female fans, Rob is admired by absolutely nobody, he’s got to go for good.”

Apparently one idea is that Rob and his equally-vile mother Ursula should be killed in a car crash. Another is that he should take his own life with an

overdose. But as overdosing does not tend to make very good radio, that idea is said to be on the backburner.

The proposal that he could fall into a slurry pit and drown is also said to be unpopular for the same reason that a glug-glug-yelp would not work on radio.

Other ideas said to be under consideration are that Rob break his neck during a fall when out riding or that he is accidentally blasted during a pheasant shoot. Either way, we can’t wait to break out the champagne.



■ WINNERS AND LOSERS:
Donald Trump and
The Archers'
baddie Rob Titchener



French cuisine

LONGTIME BBC favourite Dawn French has been poached by Sky to star in a new TV drama about family, food and infidelity.

Dawn, the national treasure who became one of the leading lights of the BBC’s comedy stable through *French & Saunders*, *Absolutely Fabulous* and *The Vicar Of Dibley*, is to star in *Delicious*, a four-part drama for Sky1.

She plays a sensual and passionate cook “locked in a complicated relationship with her ex-husband who runs a hugely successful hotel in the Tamar Valley in Cornwall.”

Sky’s head of drama Helen Mensah said: “It’s incredibly exciting to welcome Dawn French to Sky1. We’ve been wanting to work with her for a long time and *Delicious* is just the perfect project. It’s funny, surprising and audacious but also compelling and emotional. It’s going to be a fabulous treat for our audience.”

Following its impact on fans of *Doc Martin* and *Poldark*, Sky is confident that the Cornish countryside will prove a big attraction for viewers. Filming in Cornwall will also be a bonus for Dawn, who lives near Fowey in a 40-room mansion overlooking Polridmouth Cove, where she also works on her responsibilities as Chancellor of Falmouth University.

Londoners get singing

BRITAIN’S Got Talent has caused a huge surge in Londoners seeking singing lessons as wannabes search for the vocal coach who will make them a star.

BGT contestants, including 13-year-old Beau Dermott, Kathleen Jenkins and 100 Voices of Gospel have inspired many members of the public to try for stardom, with an online professional services marketplace noticing a 205 per cent increase in requests for singing teachers since the return of the talent show last month.

Traffic to *Bidvine.com* has been peaking every time that BGT is screened, prompting the local business matchmaking platform to investigate.

The team found that the top requests on all three days at that time was for singing teachers. After comparing site requests since the first show with the same time period throughout previous months, it became clear that BGT is boosting business in la-la-la quarters.



■ LET'S SING: Britain's Got Talent



EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

MPs and Whitehall mandarins who are currently bashing the BBC might do better to befriend the Corporation, protecting their own PR image, as new figures have revealed BBC's massive influence around the globe.

The figures show that one in every 16 adults on the planet use BBC News as their main source of information, giving the BBC more international clout than any other broadcaster.

The BBC's huge audience is now reaching 348 million worldwide, a 13 per cent increase on its audience of last year.

The figures show that the BBC's weekly global news audience has increased by 38 million people. For the second year running, television (with 162 million viewers) is a bigger platform than radio (147 million) and digital (80 million) for the BBC's international news services.

The BBC World Service, which is shortly to begin adding new and enhanced services across the world after receiving new funding from the Government, has seen its

audience increase to 246 million, from 210 million last year. The BBC says this growth is largely driven by new TV news bulletins in languages other than English.

BBC World Service English radio has also shown a significant audience increase, with an audience of 66 million and BBC Global News Ltd, which comprises BBC World News and bbc.com, has seen its audience grow to 108

million; India (23 million); Pakistan (13 million); Iran (12 million); Egypt (11 million); Tanzania (10 million); Brazil (eight million); Afghanistan (seven million) and Bangladesh (six million).

Francesca Unsworth, Director of BBC World Service Group, says: "These are fantastic results which show the BBC going from strength to strength around the world and demonstrate the global appetite for accurate, impartial news."

"We're about to begin the biggest expansion of the World Service since the 1940s. This will ensure we reach more people than ever, especially in countries where media freedom is under threat."

As one of those media is now the BBC itself, UK politicians wanting to be presented to the planet in a good light might care to consider that, as the BBC is on track to reach its target of 500 million weekly audience by 2022, had it a mind to it could put those who threaten its independence in a very bad light.

Just saying, Mr Whittingdale...

BBC's world view should silence its critics

million. Other key findings include the top 10 markets for BBC's international news services, which are the USA (35 million); Nigeria (35

Sir Lenny's confident he'll handle the blues

HAVING a party? Getting married? Why not book Sir Lenny Henry to be your wedding singer?

In what will come as a delightful surprise to his many fans, Sir Lenny has revealed that he's up for grabs to be the star turn at gigs.

Although Sir Lenny is best-loved as one of Britain's top funnymen he has let out that his night job is being the singer in a band.

Sir Lenny, who has released a blues album, *New Millennium Blues*, has long had a hankering to have one foot in the music business.

The Comic Relief hero who has, unknown to many, sung with The Style Council, Jeff Beck, Tom Jones and Kate Bush, performs a number of his own songs on his new album, which stemmed from a lifetime of following the blues.

"I grew up with the blues, it was always in the house;

Muddy Water, Memphis Slim, Howling Wolf, Johnny Winter. We had a record player so big it was made from an entire rain forest," he told Radio 4's *Saturday Live* when he explained that only recently has he gained the confidence to write blues songs himself.

"I was very unconfident

before, but I realised that instead of thinking outside of the box, why not just get rid of the box? It's time not to be scared anymore.

"I was in a band before, with Ade Edmondson and Hugh Laurie and Sophie Elton, Ben's wife. Ade was on guitar, Hugh was on keyboards and I was the singer.

"We started off jamming on Monday nights in Shepherd's Bush and then we played at lots of parties for friends, as Poor White Trash and The Little Big Horns.

"In fact, that's still going on actually, if people want us to do stuff we'll still do it."

Although Hugh Laurie has now left the band, Poor White Trash and The Little Big Horns can be booked for parties and corporate events through the West End agency COBJ and we wouldn't be surprised if Michael Eavis books Sir Len for the Glastonbury Festival.



■ GLOBAL REACH:
The BBC news teams are expanding their world audience
Picture: Jeff Overs/BBC

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Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
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Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
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Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
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Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

pick up points

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Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
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Fulham Chronicle

pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
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Hammersmith CHRONICLE

pick up points

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Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE

pick up points

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

Belinda Donovan is an experienced chef who was trained at the prestigious La Varenne cooking school in France. She compiled the **Hammersmith and Fulham Cook Book** in 2013 and is a regular writer of cookery columns and reviews. An enthusiast for all things Fulham, she has also written articles about the area's rich local history. She is currently a Conservative councillor for the Addison ward and served as Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham for the year 2012-13



- 3 large eggs
- 200g plain flour
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 125g raspberries

Instructions

HEAT oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Butter, then line, a shallow rectangular tin, approx 25cm x 22cm.

Melt the butter in a pan, then cook gently for about five minutes, until the white solids turn golden and the butter smells biscuity and sweet. Cool for five minutes, then add half the white chocolate and set aside for a couple of minutes to melt. Stir until smooth.

Use electric beaters to whisk the muscovado sugar and eggs together for about two minutes until thick and pale. Tip in the flour, salt, cooled chocolatey butter and vanilla, then fold in with a metal spoon or spatula until even.

Pour the mix into the tin, then scatter with the rest of the chocolate and the raspberries.

Bake for 40 to 45 minutes or until they have risen all over, with a dark golden crust. Cool completely in the tin, then cut into squares.

BELINDA DONOVAN

The Craven Cottage Cafe

NEXT time you are on your way back from Bishops Park, look out for the Johnny Haynes statue, as behind that is the Craven Cottage Cafe – the perfect place to round off your afternoon.

Simon Haines, the Coffee Shop Supervisor, says he can't think of a better way of spending a weekend afternoon than a walk round the park to include gazing over the Thames at the lights of nearby Putney.

I ask Simon what would be his favourite choice from the mouth watering homemade cakes and biscuits on display, and he rec-

ommends the carrot cake – though he says he is torn between that and the caramel crisp!

Craven Cottage Cafe has relaxing chairs and its own wide screen TV. Coffee and other drinks can also be taken away if you can prise yourself away from its cosy ambience. Simon also shares with us his crowd-pleasing recipe for blondies.

White chocolate blondies

Ingredients

- 200g unsalted butter, plus extra for the tin
- 150g white chocolate, roughly chopped
- 300g light muscovado sugar



ICON: The Craven Cottage Cafe is just behind Fulham's famous Johnny Haynes statue

Homelessness – the impact on children's lives

Homelessness remains in the media spotlight, especially in light of the recent influx of refugees and asylum seekers. The individual needs of babies and young children, however, are largely overlooked in the broad scale of the overall problem.



In 2015, the BBC and the NSPCC published a report examining the scale and impact of homelessness on babies and their parents. They found that more than 15,000 nought-to-two-year-olds live in families classed as "statutorily homeless".

Babies living in homeless families can be extremely vulnerable and their development is reliant on the quality of the care their parents are able to provide. For parents who are homeless, providing this care can be extremely difficult, especially as many types of homeless accommodation lack the important safety, cleanliness and facilities babies need in order to thrive. This can have a severe adverse effect on that baby's mental health later on in their life.

According to another government report, one in ten children aged between 5 and 16 years have been adversely affected and many continue to have mental health problems into adulthood. Half of those with lifetime mental health problems first experience symptoms by the age of 14. The impact of homelessness early in a child's life is only likely to exacerbate this problem. Under the present regime however, this situation is only likely to get worse, and its long term effects may not be fully appreciated until this generation of children reach the age of adulthood.

Hodge Jones and Allen is a leading North London law firm with an experienced social housing team. If you would like to discuss your situation, contact Siddiq directly on 020 7874 8421 or email sfazaluddin@hja.net. Hodge Jones & Allen, 180 North Gower Street, London, NW1 2NB. www.hja.net

REVIEW Heliot Steak House Hippodrome Casino

AS I have enjoyed numerous evenings revelling in the fantastic entertainment within the Hippodrome's cabaret lounge, I thought it was about time I sampled the delights of a pre-show dinner at the exquisite Heliot Steak House, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Judged the Best Steak Restaurant in London by the customers of Bookatable, Europe's biggest online restaurant booking service, the 150-seat Heliot Steak House offers a three-course theatre dinner for just £15 and with the meal including the very best USDA prime steaks, aged for between four and six weeks to develop tenderness and flavour you can guarantee to be in for a treat.

For my visit, I selected a starter of goats cheese lollipops in breadcrumbs, which came with a tangy lemon curd dip and was served with wild rocket to give an unusual but enlightening mixture of textures and flavours.

I chose USDA rump steak for my main course, which was beautifully cooked rare, and was served with thin cut

fries and a delectable red wine sauce which complemented the succulent meat perfectly. I washed it down with a couple of glasses of smooth and fruity El Muro Tempranillo Garnacha 2014 and finished off with the Almond millefeuille with winter fruits and mascarpone cream.

This was fresh and yet filling.

If steak isn't your thing there is plenty more to feast on with a menu created by award-winning chef Barry Vera, including house made gnocchi with gorgonzola, parma ham and pine nuts, whole grilled sea bream with samphire and beurre blanc, and the halloumi burger with roast field mushrooms and red pepper relish.

This is not forgetting the ultimate in decadent side dishes, Heliot's legendary Millionaire's Mac & Cheese (topped with a poached duck egg and black truffle).

The restaurant is right in the heart of the vibrant and historical building and has an engaging and exciting atmosphere which makes dining at the Heliot the perfect prelude to an evening of fun.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK



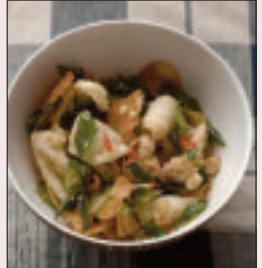
Crispy fried squid with garlic, curry leaves and almonds

Serves 4

THIS is inspired by a dish they serve at Yauatcha with soft-shell crab. You could also use cuttlefish, which will work equally well.

Ingredients
200-250g squid, cleaned and cut into rough 2-3cm squares; 50-60g self-raising flour (preferably gluten free); 120-150ml milk
Salt and freshly ground black pepper; Vegetable or corn oil for deep frying; 2 medium green or red chillies, very thinly sliced; 4 large cloves of garlic, thinly sliced 40g flaked almonds; A small handful of curry leaves, fresh, frozen or dried 1 lime, quartered

Crispy fried squid with garlic, curry leaves and almonds



Method
Preheat about 8cm of oil to 160-180C in a large, thick-bottomed saucepan or electric deep-fat fryer.

Deep fry the garlic, almonds and curry leaves for 20-30 seconds or so, stirring as they are cooking until the almonds and garlic are very lightly coloured and crisp then transfer to some kitchen paper ensuring you remove all of the bits so they don't burn. You can always carefully strain the oil and return it to the heat.

Have three containers ready, one with the flour, seasoned well with salt and pepper, one with the milk, and the third for the finished squid. Coat the squid in the flour, shaking off any excess then pass it through the milk and finally back through the flour, again shaking off any excess and into the third container.

Deep fry the squid in a couple of batches for a couple of minutes, stirring with a slotted spoon until lightly coloured then transfer on to some kitchen paper.

To serve, mix the squid, chillies and the almond mixture together in a bowl then transfer to individual bowls or one large serving dish.

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Talk of the town

The Improvathon ****

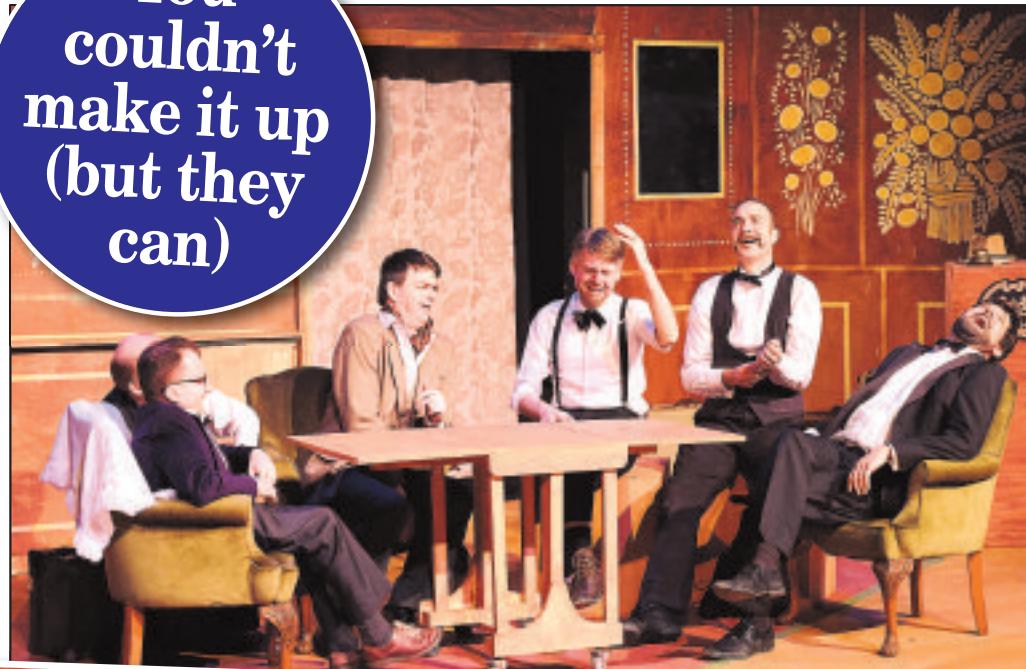
EVERYONE enjoys a good murder mystery, but a stage version, which lasts for 50 hours completely made up on the spot? This I had to see, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The annual *Improvathon* steamed into action earlier this month at the Lost Theatre in Wandsworth, with many hardcore fans of the art of the fabrication of fun making the venue their home. The little theatre was littered with sleeping bags and half eaten picnics while the lovers of the ludicrous made sure they didn't miss a moment of the mayhem marathon, all set on the Orient Express, with a cast of crazy characters including Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple and even Gloria Swanson.

By the time I got there on a Sunday afternoon, the cast had been playing their preposterous parts almost non-stop for 46 hours and you could tell fatigue had set in, with a few zombie like actors shuffling around the corridors of the building. Whilst on stage however, the energy and verve were maintained and I enjoyed a two-hour episode of hilarity. One scene, which included a tent and three cast members getting very closely acquainted, left me crying with laughter.

With the resurgence of improv, following the astounding success of *Showstopper! The Improvised Musical*, the public's appetite for the art form seems to be growing and with such an array of awe-inspiring practitioners in this country, the future looks bright for this marvellous type of mirth making.

You
couldn't
make it up
(but they
can)



■ MAKING IT UP: Scenes from The Improvathon

Pictures: Claire Bilyard

Hatton's passion for the classics thrills audience

Emma Hatton The Pheasantry, Chelsea *****

WITH a sold out one-night-only gig at the Pheasantry on the King's Road in Chelsea, West End sensation Emma Hatton proved, once again, that she is more than just a renowned star of musical theatre, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The acclaimed singer took to the stage in the intimate west London venue last week for an evening of cabaret and enthralled the gathered multitude with some serene and radiant renditions of classic songs from across the years.

The eclectic mix of music perfectly showcased Hatton's remarkable vocal ability, with the star, who is currently playing the leading role in the smash



■ SINGING SENSATION: Emma Hatton at The Pheasantry with Shona White

Picture: Troy David Johnston

hit musical *Wicked* at the Apollo Victoria, performing a diverse range of tunes from the Moody Blues to Kelly Clarkson. It was in fact the former's 1967 hit, *Nights in White Satin*, which was the real musical highlight of the evening, with Hatton singing a bewitching arrangement of the vintage standard, beautifully accompanied by her musical director for the evening, Kris Rawlinson.

Rawlinson's fingers flew across the keys of the grand piano all night and his solo in *The In Crowd* really had the room rocking. The songstress was also joined by London stage star Shona White for a gorgeous duet, the Carole King classic *You've got a Friend*, and by the dashing Andy Coxon, whose tenor inflection blended perfectly with

Hatton's sultry mezzo for a sublime song from the new Broadway musical *The Waitress*.

Natural, humble and self-deprecating, the thriving performer's presentation of her cabaret is charming and demure, with her obvious passion for the music she chooses to perform shining from her every pore.

Hatton's previous outing into the world of cabaret was to accompany the release of her Merry Christmas Darling EP at the end of last year.

With this latest triumph, I'm sure the music industry and her growing number of fans will be hoping this powerhouse performer will record another treat and make her solo shows, a regular event.

Europe united through music

AN enlightening evening of music is promised if you visit the St James' studio on May 16, when Daniel Donskoy performs his *A Song Goes Round the World*, an evening of the most adored European chansons of the 20th century, which will feature the best of German, Yiddish, Russian and French cabaret.

From Russian cabaret artist Alexander Vertinsky to Edith Piaf via the music of the comedian Harmonists in the 1930s, Donskoy will perform accompanied by Inga



■ MISSION: Daniel Donskoy

David-Rutter and her trio and be joined by special guest Jackie Marks.

Donskoy's background is as eclectic as the programme of the evening, as he was born in Russia, raised in Berlin and eventually moved to London after a spell in Tel Aviv.

He said: "In times of uncertainty relating to the European Union, this is a chance to bring Europe together through music – even if just for one evening."

The evening will include songs from life in the poor Parisian faubourgs, Yiddish theatre tales of loss and joy, songs sung by Russian political prisoners of the Tsar, witty German cabaret and much more.

If you would like further information you can visit the theatre's website stjamestheatre.co.uk

Talk of the town

KNOWN as the First Lady of the West End, Kerry Ellis has enjoyed an enviable career on the stage, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The singer has played leading roles in many of London's most famous musicals and commands a devoted fanbase.

Following a successful European tour with friend and mentor Brian May, the songstress brought her solo show to the Hippodrome Casino last week and once again proved to the sold-out audience why she is acclaimed as one of the country's leading vocalists.

After opening with a rousing, resonant version of Adele's *Rolling in the Deep*, Ellis went on to tell stories and perform songs from her illustrious career, including a serene version of *I Could Have Danced all Night*, from *My Fair Lady*, the show which gave the actress her big break.

The simply sublime arrangements by virtuoso musical director Craig Adams allow Ellis to showcase her powerhouse vocals perfectly. The showstopper *Defying Gravity*, from *Wicked*, was another real highlight and the Sia hit, *Chandelier*, gave the performer a platform to raise the rafters with a soaring and deeply moving rendition.

Ellis has gained in confidence over the last two years and maintains a jovial rapport with her adoring audience, making the links between numbers funny and charming and always allowing a little interaction, which on this occasion came in the form of a sing-along to the Queen classic *Somebody to Love*.

She also took a break from the stage to enable a rising star the chance to shine, when football coach Dan Walder performed two numbers from his upcoming album, which will be released to raise money for the Hula animal rescue charity, a cause very close to Ellis's heart and something she works tirelessly to support.

Ellis will be back in the West End in October, playing the lead in a new musical called *Murder Ballad* at the Arts Theatre. Until then, a few more solo shows at the Hippodrome Casino would be a popular addition to the schedule.



■ SOLO SENSATION: Kerry Ellis

All Black all right on the night

FORMER All Blacks rugby star Nicholas Afoa made his West End debut in the London production of *The Lion King* on Tuesday, May 3.

The sportsman-turned-stage star, pictured, has taken on the role of Simba at the Lyceum Theatre in the acclaimed Disney musical. Afoa made his stage debut as Simba in the Australian production of *The Lion King* in 2013 and played Simba in the Sydney production of the landmark musical between 2013 and 2016 – performing more than 860 times over that period. The



opportunity to play the role in the West End production will bring Afoa to London for the first time, as he embarks on his second professional theatre engagement. Afoa has had a journey to take his place on stage. The New Zealand-born, Auckland-raised performer had a promising rugby career with the All Blacks until he was sidelined by injury. After recovering and dedicating himself to his theatre career, nearly a decade later the 30 year-old beat 400 other hopefuls to the role of Simba in the Australian production.

Career highlights shared in song



■ HARMONY: Kerry Ellis on stage with Queen legend Brian May in one of their recent live collaborations. Top: Ellis's *Anthems* album cover

Tate's gallery of comedy faces

THE critically acclaimed, award-winning comedian and actor Catherine Tate will take *The Catherine Tate Show – Live* across the country this autumn, with a 21-date UK tour which includes a one-night-only performance at the Hammersmith Apollo.

The star, who recently received mixed reviews for her performance in the new musical *Miss Atomic Bomb*, will once again take to the London stage, but this time in a more well known guise – and one likely to be a hit with her fans.

In never seen before sketches, the tour will unite some of Catherine's best-known characters from her hugely successful BBC series *The Catherine Tate Show*. The cast will include 'Nan' Taylor, below; Irish nurse Bernie; Geordie Georgie; Essex girl Sam...and the return of a certain argumentative teenager..., pictured above.

Nan said:
"She's going on tour, is she?
What a load of old s***!" For
more details visit eventim.co.uk



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Talk of the town

Lucky Stiff
The Drayton Arms ***

IT'S been a while since I've been to a pub theatre, so my first ever visit to the Drayton Arms in South Kensington to see the musical comedy *Lucky Stiff* made for a jolly evening, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Set in the affluent area of Gloucester Road, the swanky bar acts as the perfect prelude to a night of entertainment and although the opulent decor is not matched in the little theatre upstairs, the charming and jovial atmosphere totally transfers.

Billed as a musical comedy farce, *Lucky Stiff* is based on the *Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo* and follows Harry Witherspoon (whose character is played by Matthew Whitby), a

shoe salesman who finds he has come into a substantial inheritance thanks to his long-lost uncle. Think *Me and My Girl* together with *Kinky Boots* and you'll get the idea. The only trouble is that he must take his late uncle's taxidermied body on holiday in order to meet the terms of the will. Suspense of any sensible thought is a must as you wade into this fast-paced farce, which introduces an array of colourful characters along the way and gallops around the French Riviera with gay abandon.

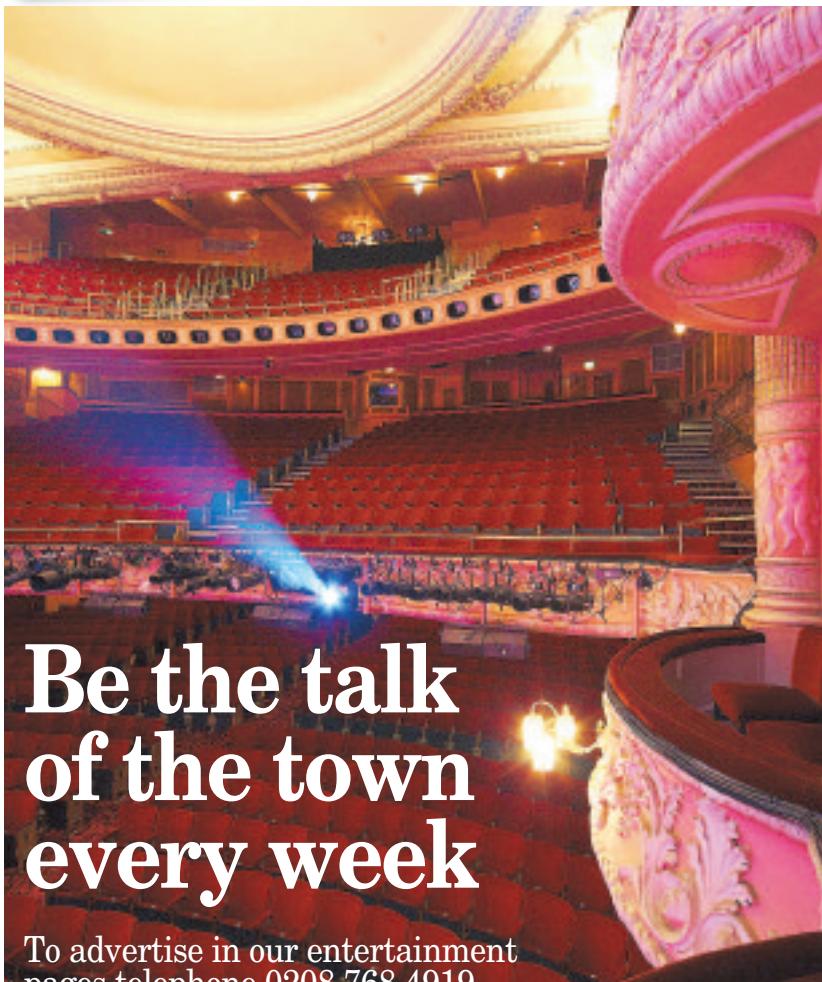
Musically the show is extremely strong, with Stephen Flaherty's melodies and Lynn Ahren's clever lyrics performed with skill by the small but vibrant cast. Michelle Crook as dog loving geek Annabel particularly impresses and her *Times Like This* is the musical highlight.

With a whole host of people putting their dibs on the dosh there is a generous helping of mayhem, which makes this an affable and endearing production, but one which could do with a little more attention to detail to make it a real hit.



Non-stop musical comedy well worth a trip to the bar

■ MAYHEM GUARANTEED: The Drayton Arms in South Kensington, inset left, hosted the musical farce *Lucky Stiff*, watched by Nicky Sweetland



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Families have a green party

FAMILIES are being invited to use their green fingers next month as a heart-warming adaptation of Emily Hughes' popular children's book *The Little Gardener* comes to the Lyric Hammersmith.

The outdoor, interactive adventure for little gardeners everywhere is performed inside a large glass box containing a real-life garden.

A visually inventive theatre company called How It Ended tell the story of a little gardener and the garden that meant everything to him.

The promoters say: "He worked hard, very hard, but he was just too little to make a difference (or at least he felt he was). Will you help the little gardener bring his garden to life? This spellbinding show will melt your heart and get your hands dirty too!"

Director Eva Sampson said: "We're so delighted to have been awarded the prestigious Outdoor Performance Commission 2016, giving us the opportunity to adapt this remarkable children's book."

"We believe Emily's story should be experienced by as many people as possible, a story about hope, persistence and community. We're really passionate about inspiring communities to embrace the outdoors and believe in the active goodwill of others."

"The audience will be invited to tend to the garden

while the little gardener is sleeping and, through their work (basic tasks such as planting and watering), the garden will come alive.

"When the gardener wakes up at the close of the show, he will find his garden in full bloom. The performance is as playful as it is inventive, featuring puppetry (in the form of the little gardener and his pet worm), and an original sound-

track composed by Darren Clark."

Commissioned by Lyric Hammersmith, GDIF, Watford Palace Theatre and Latitude, *The Little Gardener* will play at the Lyric Hammersmith from June 7 to 8 and at the Greenwich and Docklands International Festival from June 25 to 27. For more details about the show you can visit the website howitended.org



■ LET'S GO GARDENING: The Lyric Hammersmith stages *The Little Gardener* next month

Talk of the town

FOllowing the recent success of *Show Boat* at the New London Theatre, another vessel is preparing to sail into London, but this nautical story doesn't have quite such a happy ending, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Titanic the musical will return to London later this month for a 10-week run at the Charing Cross Theatre and with a roll call of stars onboard and an acclaimed director at the helm, is likely to be a rousing success with both theatre goers and fans of the ill-fated ship.

The multi-award-winning production of the Broadway musical *Titanic* was first seen at Southwark Playhouse and is returning to theatreland with director Thom Southerland captaining the crew. He told me about the show.

"It's so wonderful to be coming back to this material and to be doing the show again. I'm very fortunate, as a director, that I get to go and work on all sorts of different projects, but I think it always feels like coming home with *Titanic*. It's a beautifully written show, which is expertly crafted and tells a story of epic proportions, which everyone has an interest in."

The story is based on actual characters aboard the greatest ship in the world, with Maury Yeston (*Nine*, *Grand Hotel*) and Peter Stone gaining the inspiration to write the musical following the discovery of the wreck of *Titanic* in 1985.

They were taken with how the tragic tale of the celebrated liner struck a chord, with many around the world still fascinated by the lives of those who were onboard.

Their adaptation sees the passengers and crew unaware of the fate that awaits them, with the third class immigrants dreaming of a better life in America, the newly-enfranchised second class dreaming of achieving the lifestyles of the rich and famous, and the millionaire barons of the first class dreaming of their hegemony lasting forever.

Thom said: "The musical tells the story of the people who really lived, who survived and who tragically lost their lives that fateful evening in the middle of the North Atlantic."

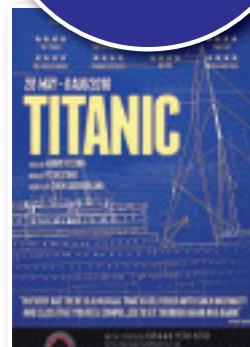
Titanic is the first production in a major season of musicals announced last month by Southerland on his appointment as artistic director of Charing Cross Theatre. The acclaimed director has scored unparalleled success in recent years, most notably with the sold-out European premiere of *Grey Gardens* at Southwark Playhouse.

There have been major productions of *Titanic* in both Japan and Canada, but the director feels the Charing Cross Theatre is the perfect place to regain the feeling of closeness between cast and audience.

Thom explained: "I think one of the things the audience really responded to at Southwark was being at such close



West End's all at sea – and it's great



BIG PLANS: *Titanic* the musical director Thom Southerland

and beautiful harmonies, but I asked Thom if anyone has ever been a little confused at the non-inclusion of the Celine Dion hit song from the 1997 Oscar-winning film version.

He laughed. "There were people who came to see the show before, who thought they were seeing a stage version of the movie and at the end of it have said, 'where was *My Heart Will Go On?*' But they've still totally and utterly enjoyed the evening they've had at the theatre."

This is just the first in an exciting season of shows which Southerland has programmed for the Charing Cross Theatre over the next year, with the newly appointed artistic director passionate about theatre for Londoners and not just for visitors to the capital.

"It's tremendously exciting. I've always wanted to work within a building and plan a season of work. I've always been very conscious of attracting a local audience and a loyal audience to come into the space and it's very much a theatre for tourists. I've always wanted to create regional theatre for local audiences in London."

"The season that I've programmed shows scale and ambition, but also, hopefully, things which people will be attracted to as well."

Titanic will run at Charing Cross Theatre from Saturday, May 28 to Saturday, August 6. If you would like further information you can visit the website charingcrosstheatre.co.uk

Festival of dance

RESIDENTS are set to perform alongside world class artists in the biggest dance festival Greenwich has ever staged.

The programme has been unveiled for Greenwich Dances 2016, which is to include a wide range of events and performances across the borough from Friday, June 17 until Thursday, June 30.

The event, organised by Greenwich Dance, now in its sixth year, includes shows with world acclaimed dancers in addition to a host of outdoor events and chances for people to get moving.

Many events are free and a number of £1 tickets are now up for grabs for performances at GD's base at The Borough Hall in Royal Hill, Greenwich.

Dance artist Francesco Scavetta is to debut his worldwide hit Surprised Body Project in the UK at the festival. Candoco Dance Company, famed for their work with a mix of dancers who have disabilities and those who do not, are to celebrate their 25th birthday by showcasing their work at The Borough Hall.

Renowned contemporary dance artists Jan Martens and Hannah Buckley are to present their solo works at the venue on Thursday June 30.

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ELECTRIC SEWING MACHINE with foot control and use instructions in large wooden cupboard for sale. Sale price: £95; 1 Welsh wooden dresser from ceiling to floor with lots of inserts for decorative items and lots of cupboard space - £100. Please telephone 07838 5676 39 and ask for Marieta.

BAGLESS VAX strong suction. 1 year old, good as new. Hardly used, £30. To collect. Tel: 020 7240 7613

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BARBACUE for sale with gas cannister. Good working order cost £175.00 pounds will accept £70.00 pounds. Please call Zahid on 07701082778 . Collection only.

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DYSON DC24 Ball, bagless, upright vacuum cleaner, good suction, brush bar does not turn. £60. Tel: 07904 966 480

TUMBLE DRYER VGC, hardly used, condensor, 7kg, £50 no offers. Phone anytime: 020 3092 3708

BUSH ELECTRIC COOKER FOR SALE. Used for only 18 months, colour black, Energy A, dimensions W60cm, D60cm, H90cm, fan oven, separate grill, perfect working order, Southwark. £50. Email: healthywise7@yahoo.co.uk.

ELEA MAXI-COSI PUSHCHAIR All extras, foot muff, cosy toes, shopping basket, rain cover, excellent condition. £50 ono. Tel: 07903 185 897

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KITCHEN SINK stainless steel, new taps and waste, 92.5cms wide x 48.5cms deep, right hand drainer, could be changed to left. Nice and clean. Any offers. Tel: 07877 818 162

Mother & Baby

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SECTION 14(1)
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1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that because of works to be carried out in the roads shown in columns 1 and 2 of the Schedule to this notice in connection with carriageway resurfacing works in those roads, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would be to prohibit vehicular traffic in those roads.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs or suspension signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the sections of road shown in columns 1 and 2 of the Schedule to this notice.
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6. The Order will come into operation on 30th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
7. Works will be part of a rolling programme between 30th May 2016 to 30th June 2016. The dates are specified for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 6th day of My 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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RIVERCOURT ROAD SOUTH	ALL	
HOMESTEAD ROAD	WHOLE ROAD	
CLIFTON AVENUE	ALL	
PARSONS GREEN EAST ARM	OS LADY MARGERET SCHOOL	
ASKEW CRESCENT	ALL	
PALLISER ROAD	ALL	
ERCONWALD STREET	ALL	
WULFSTAN STREET	ERCONWALD STREET OLD OAK COMMON	
LYSIA STREET 10	FROM WOODLAWN RD TO FULHAM PALACE RD	
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WESTVILLE ROAD SOUTH	ALL	
DAVISVILLE ROAD	ALL	
DARLAN ROAD	EAST SIDE ONLY	
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TOWNMEAD ROAD	WBR TO DE MORGAN ROAD	
HADYN PARK ROAD	ALL	
BARCLAY ROAD	FULHAM ROAD TO ROAD	
BOSCOMBE ROAD	ALL	
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Please send your CV to

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02088773875 to leave your details for an application form to be sent to you.

Closing date for all applications is Friday 20th May 2016.



ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Gloucester Grove Estate TMO is a resident led housing management organisation located within Southwark - SE15. Run by a Management board of residents, we are looking for someone who will provide a high standard of administration support to our small operational team during the course of delivering day to day service to residents.

We are seeking for an **Experienced Administration Assistant** to support the operational team as well as some aspect of providing governance support.

As an Administration Assistant, you will be the first point of contact for all our residents while also responsible for all form of admin support to colleagues. You will also be required to provide the highest standard of customer service to all residents. In the course of dealing with simple and more complex service requests from our residents, you will also exercise flexibility and be keen to work in a collaborative manner within a small team.

Request for an application should be made by sending an email to GGTMO@southwark.gov.uk. Completed application forms should also be sent to the same address.

Deadline for submission of applications is 3pm on 23rd May 2016.

Shortlisted candidates will be informed by no later than 2nd June 2016 and will be required to undertake an occupational assessment test prior to the interview.

Occupational assessment date - 8th June 2016

Interviews - week commencing 13 June 2016.

Starting date - 4th July 2016

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The successful candidate will have a catering background and an interest in people with mental health problems.

The Catering business is part of Southside Rehab Ltd, a registered charity and limited company, providing employment training for people with mental health problems. The post holder will be expected to get involved in this training.

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stephanie@sra-ltd.co.uk**

Closing date – 16/05/16

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Non-Executive Director

Up to 3 days per month

A major healthcare provider and a globally recognised brand, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT) is entering a new and exciting phase of its continuing development. GSTT provides world leading services and enjoys a history of innovation in care delivery, research and medical education. We continue to expand our ambitions and are investing significantly in the development of our estate, our service portfolio and importantly, in the technology that supports the delivery of clinical care. Our vision is to continue to provide top quality patient care, excellent education and world-class research.

The coming years will see the Trust drive a programme of transformation that will radically reshape how GSTT operates as an organisation and most importantly, how patients access the care that we provide. This is a pivotal time for the organisation and we are seeking to appoint a new Non-Executive Director who will bring fresh insight, challenge and leadership to the board.

The Role:

- As a member of the Board, you will develop and shape GSTT's corporate strategy to ensure that the interests, rights and experiences of our patients remain top of the agenda and that we maintain strong operational and financial health.
- You will be jointly responsible for the safe and effective operations of the Trust, promoting the highest standards of care and governance and ensuring that we fulfil our statutory and regulatory obligations.
- You will act as an ambassador for the Trust, working with a range of internal and external stakeholders including the Council of Governors, patients, staff and GSTT's strategic partners.

The Candidate:

- Significant leadership experience at or near main board level gained in a complex customer-facing environment, whether in the commercial or public sector. First class strategic, analytical and commercial expertise is essential.
- Commitment to the values and ethos of the NHS and public service, with a genuine passion for improving healthcare and people's lives.
- Strong and effective communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to engage with a range of stakeholders.

To be considered, you must be eligible to be a public or patient member of the Trust.

To find out more, please see www.odgers.com/57215 for a candidate brief containing application instructions, or contact us quoting the reference 57215.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 11th May 2016.

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R's on right track

THE style of football is not exactly swashbuckling and there are certainly no mavericks in the mould of Marsh or Bowles strutting their stuff, but signs are that Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is slowly putting Queens Park Rangers back on the right track.

Saturday's 1-0 home victory over Bristol City was the Dutchman's sixth win in his last nine home games, including five clean sheets at Loftus Road.

Midfielder Karl Henry brought the curtain down on a season of consolidation with a stunning 22-yard curler just after the hour, his only goal of the season, which confirmed R's 12th place finish in the Championship.

Hasselbaink said: "It was very important for us to end the season on a high for our supporters, so I'm glad we got the victory today."

"We said to the boys at the start that we wanted to finish the campaign in style and while it wasn't a classic or as free-flowing as I'd have liked, I'm just delighted we ended with a win."

"We were disciplined in the first-half but they were better than us. They had more of the play and we were a bit off it."

"But we got to grips with them in the second-half and I thought we did enough to get the job done. We were better in the second-half."

QPR have been perfectly average this season. They won 14 league matches and lost 14, scored 54 goals and conceded 54.

But after steadyng the ship in his first half-season at the helm, Hasselbaink can look forward to a summer of more wheeling and dealing within a tight transfer budget. The general consensus among the fans is that he deserves to be given a fair chance to lead Rangers back to the top flight.

Big job

With one eye on the future, he said: "There's a big job to do here and I'm excited and looking forward to what lies ahead."

"I want to make QPR a force – and that's what I intend to do."

"Everyone associated with QPR can now go home a little bit happier to have seen us win on the final day."

"I can't say a single bad word about the fans. They've been really good since I came here, in what has been a difficult season."

"The boys wanted to get the result for them today – they turn out for us every week and thankfully we got the win we were all after."

■ QPR have unveiled a new club crest following a six-month consultation with supporters.

The new circular badge (below) – R's second change in eight years – incorporates elements of the design Rangers wore on their shirts in the 70s and the one used from 1982 until 2008.

During the first phase of consultation, the shapes and symbols of their four previous crests were deconstructed and the meanings behind them explained, so that fans were able to give informed opinions on which elements they would like to see included in the new design.

Announcing the change last Friday, a QPR statement read: "Many elements of the club's previous crests were discussed in the consultation period, including the banderole, the horseshoe, the crosses, the crown, the football, and reference to Loftus Road. However, the overwhelming response from fans was a desire to keep it simple. In fact, more than half of those surveyed opted to have none of these appear on the new crest."

"Most obvious change to the crest is that of a change in shape. The new circular design was by far the most popular



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

with fans during consultation, with 57% of supporters choosing it as their preference, with just 12% wishing to keep a coat of arms.

"The round design takes inspiration from our former crests – the centre of the 1970s crest that was commonly used on shirts during that era, and then the 1982 crest that was used until 2008.

"The two circles used in the design also represent the Hoops for which the club is famously known. This was important to our fans, with 57% of them wanting to see the Hoops represented in this new design."

"The initials QPR appeared on our club crests between 1975 and 2008 – and 64% of fans wanted to see this return in the new design after it was excluded in the last crest."

Most popular

"Of all of the possible elements for inclusion in the new crest, 1882 was by far the most popular. The year, which signifies the very earliest roots of our club's beginnings, is included once again, after 74% of those surveyed expressed their desire to see this feature on the crest."

"At the conclusion of this period of consultation, the club

took the feedback on board and focusing on these four key elements, worked with graphic designers – and lifelong QPR fans – Daniel Norris and Daniel Bowyer to create four options.

"A second period of fan consultation followed, with supporters asked to choose their preferred design. In addition to an online survey open to all fans to register their vote, thousands of supporters who attended our home fixtures against Brighton & Hove Albion and Huddersfield Town were also handed leaflets to have their say."

"During these two periods of fan consultation, over 17,000 responses were received from more than 10,000 individual supporters, all of whom have contributed to the process of designing our new crest."

"At the end of the process, 68% of the fans who voted on the final designs were in agreement."

"The design most popular with fans has since undergone a necessary refining process to ensure it works in use across all club assets, including retail, marketing and digital."



■ CHELSEA from back page

"For me, it's difficult to see that when I'm on the pitch," he admitted. "But from the outside, probably you can see better. But what I felt on the pitch was that we were the better team and I'm sure if we had scored that third goal, it would have been easier."

"You know that they are in a situation, fighting for survival. They showed that fight and congratulations to them, I wish them all the best, because they showed they really want to stay in the Premier League."

Matic is a sensitive man and thinks deeply about his game and football in general. He knows that, on a professional level, the season has not gone as expected.

He also knows his own worth to the club, even if those within don't share his view.

"This is football," he said. "Sometimes you win, other times not. As you know, last season we were champions and this season we were not even close. But we will see in the future what we can do."

Different story

"This season was not good for us but I believe in our quality, I believe in myself. I know what I can do and we showed that we can play very well, we can do something when we want to be champions. We will see next season what we can do – every season is a different story."

Asked why the season fell apart, an honest Matic said: "I think about that and I really don't know what's happened."

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Sunday, May 15

CHELSEA v Leicester City, 3.00

SPORT

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No way to say goodbye

AFTER Chelsea face Leicester City on Sunday, John Terry will take his place alongside his team-mates for a lap of honour around the Stamford Bridge turf he has called home since 1997.

No doubt he will be wearing his beloved Blues kit. After all, he hasn't let a suspension prevent him from celebrating with his colleagues before, has he?

Terry will, however, miss the season finale against the newly-crowned Premier League champions due to a two-match suspension.

Just 35 seconds before the end of play in Saturday's 3-2 defeat at Sunderland, Terry was handed a red card for an unnecessary reckless challenge.

That sending-off, added to the one at West Bromwich Albion earlier in the season, meant Terry misses the midweek encounter with Liverpool as well.

In the most inglorious of ways, the ban has prematurely ended the Chelsea career of one of the club's all-time greats.

● By LWN reporter Paul Lagan
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

The 35-year-old skipper announced after the FA Cup win at Milton Keynes Dons in January that the club's board had decided not to offer him an extension to his contract which expires on June 30.

Silent mode

Fearing a mutinous response from Chelsea fans and angry chants towards Roman Abramovich, who signed Terry's Chelsea death notice, the club effectively went into silent mode, burying their heads in the sand, hoping the Terry issue would all go away. They refused to confirm or deny the end of the Chelsea career of one of the finest ever to grace its blue shirt.

Even as late as Saturday, a club spokesman trotted out the line: "In terms of his (Terry's) contract, there is nothing to report."

And so if nothing dramatic happens between when we went to press and this coming Sunday, Chelsea fans



END game: John Terry appears to have played his last game for Chelsea Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

will still be left wondering what the hell is going on.

Then, no doubt, on July 1, a club statement will announce, in simple terms, that Terry is no longer a Blue after 483 Premier League appearances in the last 18 years.

No fan expects a player to play on forever. No player expects that either. But there are ways of ensuring that a special player is given the treatment he deserves.

The club could, and should, roll out the blue carpet for Terry. A special match day programme should be produced in his honour, with former players and current colleagues able to post their testimonies on how he has influenced their careers, and how much he has sacrificed himself physically in pursuit of honours for the club.

But no, like the Frank Lampard debacle in 2014, when the club went into silent mode on his contract and let it slide until the final game of the season was over, as it did in the case of Didier Drogba too, the same will happen to Terry.

He will simply walk round the pitch, no doubt with a tear or two in his eyes, and salute the fans who have lauded him as captain, leader and legend.

Fans will have been fed false hope of a contract extension but they will be aware the end is nigh.

Guus Hiddink is washing his hands when it comes to Terry's contract situation, rightly stating that he has no influence one way or another and that the decision lies with others higher up the pecking order at Stamford Bridge.

It will be his final Chelsea game too and when asked about Terry's contract, the interim manager said: "You are referring to his future? That is up to the club to speak out or not, that is not up to me."

"If the management – the new manager or the board of directors – think that they must declare something, then they should do that. It's not up to me."

Not willing to swerve a political time-bomb in SW6, one player did speak up. Nemanja Matic, who could well be following Terry out of SW6 in the summer as part of the largest cull of players in Chelsea's recent history is embarked upon, spoke emotionally about Terry after the defeat at the Stadium of Light.

The quietly-spoken Serbian said: "Of course, he is not happy because we lost but you know what he did for this club, what he won, and me and everyone else in the team wish him all the best in the future."

"This is not a good way to finish with the club but we don't forget what he has won for Chelsea or what he has already done."

That eulogy spoke volumes for Matic, who is clearly dealing with demons of his own given the fact he failed to celebrate scoring the second Chelsea goal that gave Blues a 2-1 half-time lead at Sunderland.

Matic, 27, and in his second spell at The Bridge, is expected to head to Italy in the summer, with champions Juventus keen to land him and midfielder Oscar.

On-field credibility

That deal could net Chelsea in excess of £85million and set the club up for an explosion of incoming talent as new boss Antonio Conte sets about restoring Chelsea's on-field credibility in what has become the most embarrassing year under Roman Abramovich.

Matic was vague when asked why he did not celebrate his goal: "Yeah, it was a great goal but I decided not to celebrate," he said. When pressed, he simple stated: "I have my reasons."

Of the game itself, Matic was damning in his assessment of his team-mates' attitude: "I think that we played not very well in the first-half but OK, good enough to score that second goal."

"But in the second-half, we didn't score the third one and as you saw, they wanted it more than us, to win the game. They showed that. They deserved to win. I'm not happy to say that but they deserved it."

Did that "OK" first-half and terrible second-half just about sum up Chelsea's season, which left them in ninth place ahead of Wednesday's visit to Liverpool?

■ Continued on page 27

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD



Summer shake-up needed

A COMFORTABLE 1-0 victory over already relegated Bolton Wanderers in the final game of a dismal season cannot paper over large cracks at Fulham, where a big summer shake-up is required if Whites are to challenge for promotion from the Championship next season.

Head coach Slavisa Jokanovic admits: "We need to rebuild the team, this is what we have to do. It's not a question about one player or two players, one position or another position, we need to change everything."

"We need to be working with more ambition in the games, in training, in the office. We have to show ambition in the transfer market."

"What we've offered this season is not ambitious enough for a club like Fulham," he explained. "Our priority is important recruitment and to build something different to what we have right now."

"In the four months behind me I've had a chance to understand how big this club is, how big the support is. It's very important people support us but we need to offer them some reason to do this, and I've spent these four months understanding what I have in my

hands, and what is in front of us."

"This next season is my season, and next season they're going to expect me to put this team on a different level."

"They're going to expect to see Fulham fighting for the top of the table. I'm very motivated. I arrived here thinking about important targets."

Although they controlled Saturday's Craven Cottage season finale from the start, Fulham had to wait until the 77th minute for Tom Cairney's winner – a precise left-footed finish into the far corner from 15 yards. It was only their fourth clean sheet of a league campaign in which they conceded 79 goals.

Incredible

"It's a good way to finish the season," said Jokanovic. "We played a good game and got a clean sheet, which is incredible for us."

"At the end (of the season) it's always important to win the game, and we offered our supporters something a little bit different to what they've had in the past, especially in the last few months."

"We played today without any pressure, and Bolton did too. It's not a typical Championship game, it was a little bit softer. I was optimistic and I expected that we were going to score a goal, and at the end we scored."

"It's a good way to finish this season, which is behind us. Now we can start thinking about next season."

"We have to be completely different, because Fulham is a historical team and they deserve to be fighting for a different target to what we were fighting for this year."

"We finished in 20th position but we were talking about fighting for top six. We need to be ready to build a more competitive team than what we have in our hands this season."

"But I haven't only been here an hour-and-a-half, I've been here for four months."

"I know Fulham very well, I know my players very well, and they didn't surprise me. And they didn't surprise me in the past so much."

"I'm happy because we had the opportunity to give something back to our supporters but now it's over and it's time to start working on what is in front of us. We need to have a completely different target for next year."

RANGERS BACK ON RIGHT TRACK - page 27